COPIED FOREIGN RELATIONS.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
AUG 7 1895

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. No other method of securing American representation on the proposed Commission in that distant provin appears to have been available.
AUG 7 1895
AAA

No. 2278.

Legation of the United States.
Peking. July 1, 1895.

Jacket Aug 7/95

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
AUG 7 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:
Szechuan riots.

Synopsis:
Appointment of Commissioners to settle damages etc proposed.

One enclosure.

No 2278

Legation of the United States.
Peking, July 1st, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose a copy of a communication sent by me to the Tsungli Yamên relating to a proposal of the mode of settling the matters growing out of the recent riots in Szechuan. 1/2278.

In 1886 when riots occurred at Chungking I requested the English Consul at that port to take charge of and arrange for the settlement of matters affecting American interests. He acted very satisfactorily and his conduct was approved by the Department and all the interested parties.

I have in this case requested Mr Tratman, H. B. M's Consul at Chungking to do what is necessary to secure damages for the American missionaries, and H. B. M's Minister has kindly consented that he may act for us.

The proposition sent to the Yamen provides for the appointment of a Commission, composed of certain Chinese officials and one British and one American commissioner to take all the facts and circumstances into consideration and to report to Peking.

As our nearest Consul is at Hankow and it would take him two or three months to reach Chungking this course seemed advisable.

I submit my action for your approval. The Yamên has not yet approved of the mode of settlement proposed.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

1. Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamen,
July 1st, 1895.

Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamên

Peking, July 1st, 1895.

A commission should be appointed composed of the new Viceroy of Szechuan, the Treasurer and judge of the Province, with whom should be associated two missionaries, one British and one American for the purpose of investigating on the spot the circumstances connected with the origin of the riots, for enquiring into and determining the losses sustained by British and Americans in consequence of the riot, and fixing the amount of the indemnity to which in each case the claimants are entitled, and for making such other arrangements and dispositions as on mutual consultation may be found necessary to secure the settlement of the present difficulties and the prevention of future trouble.

The Commissioners would submit a report of the proceedings of the Conference and of the conclusions at which they have arrived to their respective Authorites at Peking, who would take into consideration the suggestions and recommendations they had made and pronounce a final decision.

In view of the fact that the United States have no Consul nearer than Hankow I have requested H. B. M's Minister to permit H. B. M's Consul at Chungking to take charge of American interests and to choose a suitable person to serve as the American Commissioner.

I trust that telegraphic orders will be sent to the Chinese Commissioners to hold themselves in readiness for the enquiry.

As soon as I am informed that this proposal is adopted by the Tsungli Yamên I will notify H. B. M's Consul at Chungking to nominate the American Commissioner and desire him to join his Chinese and British colleagues at Chêngtu immediately.

No 2

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
AUG 7 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
AUG 10 1895

No 2279. acked Sept 9.95

Legation of the United States.
Peking. July 5, 1895.

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:
Chengtu riots

Synopsis:
Yamên details what it has done to prevent future riots.

One enclosure

No 2279.

Legation of the United States.
Peking. July 5, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney.
Secretary of State.
Washington. D.C.

Sir:

In my despatch No 2273 of June 24th, I enclosed a copy of my communication to the Tsungli Yamên relating to the Szechuan riots.

I now have the honor to enclose a translation of the reply of the Yamên thereto. 1/2279.

The Yamên makes vigorous assertions that it has done all that is possible to prevent riots, but on the question of punishing the rioters it is singularly silent.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

1. The Tsungli Yamên to Mr Denby.
No 18. July 2, 1895

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr Denby.

No 18. July 2, 1895.

Upon the 25 June the Prince and Ministers had the honor to receive a communication from the Minister of the United States acknowledging the receipt of the Yamen's note of the 19th June which, he says, in substance is a declination to recommend to the Throne the issuing of a decree relating to the punishment of rioters; that he would not take up with the Yamen the general discussion of anti-foreign riots; their causes and their effects; that the fallacy of the treatment of the question is that the Chinese Government punishes neither rioters nor the negligent officials and as no-body is punished riots go on; that there have been many cases growing out of riots and finally that he joined with H.B.M's Minister in the demand that the Prince and Ministers will instruct the Viceroy of Szechuan to send an armed military force of a thousand men from Chengtu to put an immediate stop to the disturbances in the neighborhood of Chengtu and that these soldiers may subsequently be employed for the protection of Chungking against similar disorders etc.

The Prince and Ministers would observe that since the date of the riots and destruction of missionary property in Szechuan — May 28, 1895, the Yamên have received and telegraphed four decrees issued by the Emperor containing strenuous instructions to the Viceroy of Szechuan to use every means in giving due protection" to the missionaries and to cause the arrest of the rioters and punish them; and speedily bring about a settlement of the cases.

The Yamên have also received frequent telegrams from the Viceroy of Szechuan to effect that "he had ordered that soldiers be detailed with instructions to take action in good earnest to prevent any violence by mobs and to vigorously arrest the outlaws who were engaged in the riots. Further proclamations have been issued and posted that if any resist their lawful authority, it will not matter if they are killed."

The Viceroy of Szechuan has spared no efforts in the action he has taken. As to the question of despatching a detachment of troops to Chungking the Yamên yesterday received a telegraphic reply from the Viceroy of Szechuan stating that there is a garrison of irregulars or "braves" stationed at Chungking and that he had telegraphed the Taotai there that under the regulations governing the drill of troops at the Capital a selection of strong and able bodied men is to be made from the Brigade

Generals troops stationed in the city who are to be enrolled and drilled the same as the irregulars, to the end that due protection may be accorded to foreigners.

At Chengtu there are troops and the local officials will naturally take action in good earnest in preserving order. The former Viceroy Liu has been degraded and removed from office. In the future the administration of the Government of Szechuan will be in charge of the newly appointed Viceroy Lu.

The Prince and Ministers

would beg to inform the Minister of the United States that on the 16th June telegraphic instructions were sent by the Yamen to the local authorities in all the provinces including the places on the Yangtze that wherever Missionaries are, proper protection must be accorded them.

A necessary communication addressed to

H. E. Charles Denby.
etc etc etc

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
AUG 8 1895

No 2280.

Legation of the United States.
Peking. July 5, 1895.

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Reports filed in
Bureau of Statistics -
August 8.

Subject:
Forwarding Trade and
Medical Reports.

No 2280.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, July 5, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State.
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I have mailed to you under separate cover "Returns of Trade and Trade Reports for the year 1894," together with the pamphlets of "Medical Reports" and one "Statistical Series No 2 – all being publications of the

Imperial Maritime Customs.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Given to Press Aug 24. AAA

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Ack and approve the steps taken for Dr. Sheffield's relief - Report what is done toward punishing the assailants.
AUG 24 1895
Dr 150 AAA Aug 26.

X BUREAU
REC'D.
G 23 1895
OF STATE

No 2281.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, July 8. 1895.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
AUG 24 1895

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:

Attack on Dr Sheffield.

Synopsis:

Attacked by two men yesterday, badly injured, one of the men crazy. Precautions taken.

No. 2281.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, July 8, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have to inform you that Rev. D. Z. Sheffield, an old and highly respected American Missionary, who has resided many years at Tungchou, was set upon yesterday near his College by two Chinamen who stabbed and cut him several times. His wounds are severe, but not of themselves necessarily fatal. The attack was made by a Chinese carpenter who had long been employed in the college, assisted by his brother. The carpenter has befor this committed assaults on people, and , was recognized by every one as being crazy. It is not known that the brother was crazy. No motive has been assigned for the deed.

In times of imminent riots like the present it seemed necessary to take every precaution. I immediately notified the Tsungli Yamên and asked that precautionary measures be taken. Dr Sheffield was alone at Tungchow - which is fourteen miles from Peking.

I informed the Americans here and in the country, and several went to the Doctor's assistance.

It turned out afterwards that the Second Secretary of this Legation had heard of the incident before I did, and he had gone to Tungchow with a doctor.

The two criminals were taken to the precincts of the college yesterday and severely beaten and are now in arrest awaiting trial.

The matter will create a great stir in China, but it is absolutely without anti-foreign political significance.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File,
AUG 27 1895

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
AUG 27 1895

BUREAU
'D.
8 1895
STATE

No. 2282

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 8, 1895.

Mr Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject:

The Russian loan.

Synopsis:

It is definitely concluded and China agrees to make no other loan for six months.

No. 2282.

Legation of the United States,
Peking. July 8, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney.
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that it is now definitely concluded that China will negotiate a loan in Europe - France - for one hundred millions taels. The rate of interest is four and eight tenths per cent. The loan is to be taken by the French banks, and

Russia agrees to guaranty the banks that the loan shall be paid after fifteen years.

The limit of payment is thirty six years. China has stipulated that during six months she will not borrow any more money.

All disinterested persons deprecate this action. It is true that Russia does not directly endorse or guaranty the bonds to be issued - but she does the equivalent thing, she insures the banks. The true policy would have been to have gone into the markets of the world and borrowed money from individuals as a purely commercial or financial matter, without any Governmental influence whatever.

It is plain that Russia by reason of her being practically the creditor of China will exercise an overwhelming influence over this weak, distracted country. At one bound Russia has become the dominant country in the Far East, and the influence of England has correspondingly depreciated.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

F.R.

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

ackd aug 24

No. 2283

X BUREAU
REC'D.
G 23 1895
OF STATE

Legation of the United States,

Peking. July 8, 1895.

Mr Denby to the

Secretary of State.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
AUG 23 1895

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
AUG 26 1895

Subject:

The Chentu Riots.

Synopsis:

Yamên agrees to appoint Commission to investigate as asked by the Minister.

One enclosure.

No 2283

Legation of the United States.
Peking. July 8, 1895.

To the Honorable.
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State.
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

In my despatch No 2278 of July 1st, I enclosed a copy of my proposal to the Tsungli Yamên to refer the consideration of matters growing out of the Chentu riots to a commission consisting of certain Chinese officials and an English and American missionary.

I

1/2283

I have now the honor to enclose a translation of the answer of the Yamên to that proposal, from which it will be seen that it has been accepted.

The personnel of the Commission has been, however, modified to the extent that the Chinese members thereof shall consist of the Judge, Treasurer, and Prefect of Chentu, retaining an Englishman and an American as members. Possibly H. B. M's Consul at Chungking may sit on the Commission should it meet at that port.

It is proper to state that should the proceedings before the Commission develop the fact that the Viceroy Liu and other local officials failed to do their duty in protecting the foreigners their punishment will be insisted on.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

1. The Tsungli Yamên to Mr Denby,
No 19 July 6, 1895

The Tsungli Yamen to Mr Denby.

No 19 July 6, 1895.

Upon the 1st of July the Prince and Ministers had the honor to receive a communication from the Minister of the United States wherein he stated that, in the matter of the Chengtu missionary cases, he indorsed the proposal of H. B. M's Minister, Sir Nicholas O'Conor relating to the mode of procedure to be adopted in dealing with them and asked that a Commission should be appointed composed of the new

The Tsungli Yamen to Mr Denby.

No 19 July 6, 1895.

Upon the 1st of July the Prince and Ministers had the honor to receive a communication from the Minister of the United States wherein he stated that, in the matter of the Chengtu missionary cases, he indorsed the proposal of H. B. M's Minister, Sir Nicholas O'Conor relating to the mode of procedure to be adopted in dealing with them and asked that a Commission should be appointed composed of the new Viceroy of Szechuan the Treasurer and Judge of the province with whom should be associated two missionaries, one a British and one American for enquiring into and determining the cases; that H. B. M's Consul Mr Tratman at Chungking would take charge of American interests and choose a suitable person to serve as American Commissioner with his British Colleagues and the Yamên was requested to send telegraphic instructions to Chengtu for the Chinese Commissioners to hold themselves in readiness for the enquiry and that H. B. M's Consul at Chungking would be notified by wire to nominate an American Commissioner who would be requested to proceed to Chengtu immediately etc., etc.

The Yamên would observe that since the riots took place at Chengtu all the missionaries have left the place,- having been escorted to Chungking. The Viceroy has telegraphed ordering the Chuan Tung Taotai to confer with H. B. M's Consul and make satisfactory arrangements in this matter.

On the 28th of June the Yamên received a communication from H. B. M's Minister, Sir Nicholas O'Conor, in the same sense as the communication under acknowledgment. The Yamên have already wired to the High Authorities of Szechuan to appoint proper and suitable deputies to meet the British and American Missionaries appointed as Commissioners, on their arrival at the Capital, and to act with them in considering and taking action upon the matters at stake. The said deputies are to report their action for the consideration of the High Chinese authorities and after they have come to a decision action will be taken accordingly.

As in duty bound the Prince and Ministers send this communication for the information of the Minister of the United States.

A necessary communication addressed to

H. E. Charles Denby,

etc., etc., etc.

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
AUG 26 1895

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
AUG 23 1895
DEPT OF STATE

Jacketed
aug 24

No. 2284.

Legation of the United States,
Peking. July 8, 1895.

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:
The Chentu Riots.

Synopsis:
Report of Missionaries enclosed.
Comments of H. B. M's Consul
showing complicity of officials.

One enclosure.

No 2284.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, July 8, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to
4 enclose a copy of a report
made by the Protestant
Missionaries at Chentu to
H.B.M's Consul at Chungking
describing the recent riots at
that city.
The Consul, Mr. J. W. Tratman,
calls attention to the following
points in the report which
are

are especially worthy of notice:-

1. Though evil rumors had been current for a month before, no precautions were taken on the day of the outbreak, the 5th of the 5th moon or Dragon boat festival, which is notoriously a dangerous day.

2. The riot which ceased some time after dark on the first day was allowed to break out again on the next day.

3. The Canadian Mission Compound was held for one hour and over against the mob by two missionaries with guns showing that a moderately strong force of soldiers might have suppressed

the disturbance.

4. A point blank refusal to do any thing was met with in two cases, first when the Methodist Mission applied to the Kung Mou Taotai Ch'ang, and secondly when the French priest applied to the Viceroy.

5. Proclamations were refused. A feebly worded one on the second day of the riot being the only response to requests extending over three weeks.

6. The French Mission premises closely adjoining the Viceroy's Yamên were looted and destroyed. The Consul proceeds to say that: "It does not seem

possible to draw any other deduction from a consideration of the above points than that of complicity on the part of the officials. There are at Chentu – at least on paper – 12000 troops of different kinds, Manchu and Chinese, many armed with foreign rifles. A hundredth part of that number could have prevented or quelled the riot, but neither in the missionaries report nor in the evidence which I have obtained from two or three messengers is any mention made of the movement of troops. The Viceroy's feeling against foreigners is well known. He is already dismissed from his post, and only awaiting the arrival of his successor to return home.

There is a general opinion that this is his parting blow and it is certainly a heavy one."

This report and these comments thereon justify the contention that I have always maintained with the Yamên that if the local authorities chose to prevent anti-foreign riots they could do so.

The above mentioned papers were kindly furnished me by H. B. M's Minister - Sir Nicholas R. O'Conor.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

1. Report of the missionaries. Chentu, May 30, 1895.

Copy

Report of the missionaries.

Chentu, May 30, 1895.

Dear Sir:

The property of all Protestant and Roman Catholic missions in this city is completely destroyed. All dwellings, chapels, hospitals and schools are razed to the ground. Some buildings were burned, others carried away piecemeal till nothing remained but broken tiles. Several of our number had very narrow escapes with their lives, but at the moment of writing, the eighteen Protestant missionaries of the city with eleven children, and two of

he British Consul. the

Chungking.

the three Roman Catholics are safe in the Hwa Yang Hien Yamen. With the exception of one or two coolie loads, all hospital supplies and household goods of every description were looted by the mob.

About 4 p. m. of May 28, the day of the Twan Yang festival, rioting began at the premises of the Canadian Methodist Mission on the street called Sz Shen Tsz. Two cards were sent in succession to the Hwa Yang Hien Yamen, calling on the Pao Kia on the way. Stones were thrown at the main gate of the mission compound and a mob rapidly gathered. No show of resistance was offered until the strong gates were battered down about 5 p.m. From that until long after 6 o'clock the mob was held in check by three missionaries, two carrying guns. The only assistance sent was a force of about 12 men in civilian dress and three soldiers in red, although between 5 and 6 o'clock our messengers had returned from the Yamên with the word that a large body of men would be sent at once. About 7 p.m. the four Canadian missionaries with four children and one C. M. S. missionary escaped under cover of darkness and fog to the city wall. They carried nothing but the clothes they wore. The C. M. S. missionary Mr Jackson, found his way to the China Inland Mission alone. The other four left the city wall in chairs about midnight for the same compound. By midnight three dwellings, chapel, two large hospital buildings and school buildings of the Canadian Mission were completely destroyed with all their contents. During the evening a few Yamen runners were deputed to protect two of the mission compounds.

At daybreak of May 29th anything remaining of the wrecked compound was carried away, and by 6 a.m. the mob had reformed in full force and turned its attention to another compound of the same mission directly across the street. So far as we know, no attempt whatever was made by the officials to scatter the mob or to protect this compound. In an hour or two the newly erected brick bungalow was in flames as well as every other building on the place. Mrs Hartwell had escaped early in the morning to the Ü Sha Kai compound, while Mr Hartwell climbed the wall and found refuge in the compound of a friendly native.

About 9 a.m. the two young ladies of the Ü Sha Kai compound (Canadian Mission) together with Mrs Hartwell arrived in chairs at the China Inland Mission. They had escaped over their back wall. A few minutes later the big Ü Sha Kai compound was completely leveled to the ground, part of it having been burned.

There were then gathered in the China Inland compound one C.M.S., three China Inland and seven Canadian missionaries, in all eleven. The streets at that hour were, in the neighbourhood of the C.I.M., still comparatively quiet. The decision was made to go in chairs at once to the Hwa Yang Hien Yamen. But the chief of police arrived just then with a retinue of 26 men and guaranteed protection if they would stay right there. By 10:30 the mob was growing larger and more difficult to control. Now the official advised removal to the Yamen. Six missionaries got away safely two by two. Then at eleven o'clock the crisis came. Not a moment too soon the remaining five with three children climbed the back wall and quickly concealed themselves in a small mat house. Thirty taels handed over at once effectually shut the mouths of the people and secured immunity from immediate discovery. At 8 o'clock in the evening, covered by darkness, they were conveyed one by one in chairs to the Hwa Yang Hien Yamen where they joined the six previously arrived.

From 11 a.m. to about 2 p.m. those two men and three women with three little children sat huddled together in a dark corner of a dark room, and were painfully aware by the continuous booming and crashing of the work of destruction proceeding just beyond a mud wall. By 2 p.m. China Inland Compound was a complete ruin.

While these things

were in progress in this quarter the Methodist Episcopal Mission near the south gate did not fare very differently. In the evening of May 28th an urgent request for protection in case of trouble was sent to the Lung Men Taotai. The reply was a refusal, point blank, to have anything to do with the case. Before daylight the six M. E. missionaries with four children took chairs, arriving just at daybreak of May 29 at the Hwa Yang Hien Yamen. "They were asked to return to their own compound at Shan hi Kai, and guaranteed full protection. They accordingly returned home. Early in the forenoon the people began to gather, and notwithstanding the presence of a chief of police and 22 men, at 10 o'clock a.m. the attack on the compound began. The missionaries and their children by invitation of an immediate neighbor, jumped the wall of their compound and were at once concealed in a small dirty loft. Here they remained safely for about 12 hours, unwilling witnesses of the spoiling of all they possessed and the rapid demolition of all buildings of every description on the mission compound. About midnight all six Methodist Episcopal missionaries with their four children arrived in chairs at the Hwa Yang Hien Yamen. About the same time Mr Hartwell, Canadian Mission, arrived in a chair from the house of the friendly native who had secreted him. This made the total of eighteen protestant missionaries in the city at the time of the outbreak. Some time later in the night of May 29th two of the three Roman Catholic missionaries of the city were brought safely into the Yamen.

Evil rumors against us have been growing in the city for a month back. All three missions asked for proclamation against these rumors from two to three weeks ago. Repeated requests for a proclamation failed to secure one until yesterday afternoon when about 9 out of 11 mission premises had been wrecked. Then

a

a mild proclamation was put out.

We have ample evidence that the officials openly connived at the work of destruction yesterday. The only restriction placed in the way of rioters was that, for obvious reasons, they should not set fire to the buildings. The help asked for, if sent at all, was in every case sent in a very dilatory manner and when it arrived was ridiculously insufficient and inefficient. Repeated requests for additional protection met with no response.

At present writing, noon May 30 we are in cramped but fairly comfortable quarters in this Yamên. The Hien tells us to remain quietly for a few days and the understanding is that as soon as some of the excitement subsides throughout the city we are to be escorted out of the city and started away either by chair or boat.

All sorts of the vilest rumors are afloat - that we killed a child or children, baking their bodies, using their eyes for medicine, taking out their bones etc. We hear now 2 p.m. that a human head, human hand and human eye have been nailed up on the wall of one of the wrecked compounds. Red paint has been spattered on the walls and exhibited as evidence of crimes committed by the missionaries. We hear that bones are being dug from graves and shown at the Governor General's Yamên as further evidence of our guilt.

It is significant that one of the R. C. priests residences was within a stone's throw of the Gov. Genl's Yamen. His repeated requests for assistance from that Yamên met with just as many refusals. His place was wrecked and burned. Another rumor says the city gates, 4 in number, are being guarded by soldiers lying in wait, to cut off all escape from the city.

Our message by telegraph was received at the office and we believe was fowarded yesterday morning 29th. This morning 30th our telegram was met with the statement that the wires are down. This is believed to be false.

(Signed)

Canadian Methodist Mission

Geo. E. Hartwell, wife and two children

Omar L. Kilborn, wife and babe

David W. Stevenson, wife and three children

Methodist Episcopal Mission.

H. Olin Cady and wife

H. L. Canright, wife and two children

J. F. Peat, wife and two children.

Church Missionary Society

O. M. Jackson.

China Inland Mission

Joshua Vale

James G. Cormack, wife and one child.

Total - 9 men, 9 women, 11 children.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Ack as read with much interest and attention — Aug 27 —
Give to press (full text of Decree).
AUG 27 1895
aaa
To Press Aug 27 —

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
AUG 23 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

No. 2285.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, July 10. 1895.

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:
Progress in China.

Synopsis:
Encloses an encouraging decree from the Emperor.

One enclosure.

No. 2285.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, July 10, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose a translation of a decree which appeared in the Peking Gazette the 5th instant. 1/2285.

The important question in China now is whether the Government intends to embark on a career of progress.

The decree in question is encouraging.

The Emperor commands that there be recommended to him for appointment to office men of ability in all branches of learning: "men of remarkable ingenuity and extraordinary talents - such as astronomers, geographers, mathematicians, scientists, and manufacturers etc."

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

1. Translation of decree from Peking Gazette July 5, 1895.

Decree published in
Peking Gazette July 5th. 1895.

The foremost of essentials in the administration of Government is first to select good men for office. Previous decrees have been promulgated calling upon our servants of state in the Capital and in the provinces to bring forward and recommend men of talent for office and these have in their order been selected for Government employ. At the present time there are many difficult and perplexing questions to be met with, and in view of this fact, it is all the more necessary that men of unquestionable ability and talent should be selected so that we can avail ourselves of their services in aiding us in carrying on the administration of Government.

Let all the Presidents and Vice Presidents of the various Boards as well as the Tartar Generals, Viceroys and Governors of the various provinces, when they are certain of persons possessing a clear understanding whose knowledge of things are penetrating and far seeing, surpassing and excelling in wisdom and ability, and thoroughly competent to perform the functions assigned to them, - who are perfect in the art not only of understanding the fundamental principle of things but its result in action, these are to be reported to us in special memorials with a recommendation for appointment to office. The memorials, however, must specify in every respect the true qualifications of each person recommended.

Men of remarkable ingenuity and extraordinary talents - such as astronomers, geographers, mathematicians, scientists and manufacturers, those who have been examined, their capabilities tested and verified; - not persons who are merely given to empty task, are to be recommended to Us, the memorialists giving an account of each in his own particular profession; so as to enable Us to avail ourselves of their special requirements.

The said High Authorities should bear in mind that a subject's allegiance to his sovereign is his duty and in a most equitable and just manner. They should give careful consideration in examining into the merits of those they recommend for office. Should it appear that they are careless and perform their duties in this matter perfunctorily, or just as far as they feel obliged to, presenting false reports - of mere words only - representing the interests of favored persons from selfish motives, and are unduly lenient and influenced by their private feelings, for such an offense, one of improperly recommending persons for office; the punishment is specially provided by statute, and we will certainly hold the guilty responsible.

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.
Copied for F.R.
Aug 24/95

No. 2286.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
AUG 23 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Legation of the United States,
Peking. July 10. 1895.

Acked Aug 24

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
AUG 26 1895

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:
The Szechuan riots.

Synopsis:
Minister demands that ex-Viceroy be ordered to Peking to await result of investigation thereof.

One enclosure.

No 2286.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, July 10, 1895.

To the Honourable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have addressed you on the subject of the Szechuan riots in the following despatches:

No 2270 of the 21st ultimo;
" 2273 " " 24th " ;
" 2278 " " 1st instant;
" 2279 " " 5th " ;
" 2283 " " 8th " ;
" 2284 " " " " ;

1/286 I have $[\overset{\text{omit}}{\text{now}}]$ the honor to enclose a copy of a communication sent by me to the Tsungli Yamen the 9th instant asking that the ex-Viceroy Liu be ordered to come to Peking to await an investigation into his conduct, so that he may be punished should the evidence to be taken show that he is guilty of complicity in the riots.

I have the honor to be.

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

1. Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamên

No. 16 July 9, 1895.

Mr. Denby to the Tsungli Yamên

No. 16 Peking, July 9, 1895.

I have heretofore requested that troops should be sent from Chengtu to Chungking to assist in preserving order.

If this request is not acceded to the responsibility will rest with the Government of China and this I desire to place on record.

I think it desirable also that the examinations at Chungking should be postponed, and this, also, I place on record.

I

I desire, also, to reiterate the ideas heretofore conveyed to the Yamên that the time has come to China when officials who are negligent or criminal in their conduct towards foreigners must be punished, and that simple payment of damages is not enough to secure future immunity from destruction. To that end I request that the late Viceroy of Szechuan be ordered to come to Peking in order that if enquiry into the causes of the riots shows him to have been in fault he may be properly punished.

I

I will make the same demand as to all other officials who may be shown to be guilty.

Unless the guilty officials are punished no settlement of matters appertaining to the riots will be satisfactory.

It is clearly in the interest of China to make a grave public example showing her intention that riots shall be prevented.

The experience of many years shows that this cannot be done unless there be condign punishment of guilty men.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
AUG 23 1895
DEPT OF STATE

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Ack^t + approve.
~~Cop.~~ to Navy.
G.T.L.
Give to press.
AUG 27 1895

Aug 27.
Aug 27—
To Press Aug 27.

No. 2287.

Legation of the United States,

Peking, July 10, 1895.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
AUG 27 1895

Mr Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject:

Buoys and beacons in Yangtze

Synopsis:

As Dean requested Government to replace them.

No. 2287.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, July 10. 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney.
Secretary of State.
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that at the request of the Consular body at Shanghai I have as Dean of the Diplomatic body with the concurrence of my Colleagues requested the Government of China to replace in the Yangtze the buoys and beacons which were removed during the recent war.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Acked Aug 24

No 2288.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
AUG 23 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Legation of the United States.
Peking. July 12, 1895.

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
AUG 26 1895

Subject:
The Szechuan riots.

Synopsis:
Mr Spencer Lewis named as member of Commission - duties defined.

One enclosure.

No 2288.

Legation of the United States.
Peking. July 12, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State.
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I have designated Rev Spencer Lewis - a resident of Chungking - to act as the American member of a Commission to examine into the causes and results of the Szechuan riots.

I have addressed to Mr Lewis

$\frac{1}{2288}$ Lewis a communication of which a copy is enclosed, wherein the purposes of this Commission, the constitution thereof, and its duties are set forth.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

1. Mr Denby to Mr Lewis,
July 11, 1895

Peking, July 11, 1895.

Rev Spencer Lewis,
Chungking.

Sir:

It has been arranged by the Chinese Government, H. B. M's Minister, Sir N. R. O'Conor, and myself that a Commission consisting of three Chinese officials - probably the Prefect of Ch'êngtu, the Provincial Treasurer, and the Judge - H. B. M's Consul, Mr J. W. Tratman, an English missionary and an American missionary, should sit set either at Ch'êngtu or Chungking for the purpose of enquiring into the causes and results of the recent riots in Szechuan.

I have designated you as a member of this Commission and hope that in the general interest you will consent to serve.

It is proper to state that I have consented to the organization of the Commission without consultation with my Government - there being no time to do so fully - and that I cannot hold out any inducement that any compensation will be paid to you or even that your expenses will be reimbursed.

All that I can say is that when the labors of the

Commission are concluded, and a report made of services rendered I will represent the matter to the State Department for its consideration.

The duty of the Commission will be to enquire into the causes and origin of the riots; to find the facts and to determine from them whether the provincial officials took adequate measures to prevent disorder, and to suppress it after it broke out; and to assess the damages suffered by each individual and Corporation.

The findings of the Commission will not be final and conclusive, its object being to find the facts and submit them for the further action of the two foreign representatives chiefly interested therein

It is desired that a full report of the proceedings of the Commission be made and forwarded to this Legation.

I am etc.

(Sg'd) Charles Denby.

No 2289 - Ack. by tel. 7 air

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
AUG 31 1895

Legation of the United States.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
AUG 31 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Peking, July 19th, 1895.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State. ✓ Ack'd. Sept. 3.

Subject

Return of Mr. Denby, Secretary of Legation,

No. 2289.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, July 19th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that Mr. Charles Denby Jr., Secretary of this Legation, arrived at his post on the 16th instant, after leave of absence granted by the Department in November last, and on the 17th instant entered upon the discharge of his duties.

I

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
AUG 31 1895

No 2290-

Legation of the United States,
Peking, July 20, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
AUG 31 1895
DEPT OF STATE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

ack'd Sept 3/95

Subject:
Acknowledgment of despatches.

No. 2290.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, July 20, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Department's despatches Nos. 1080 to 1086 inclusive except No. 1081. (of June 4th. ack'd desp 2097).

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

COPIED FOREIGN RELATIONS

3d. ASST. SECRETARY
SEP 6 1895

Ack. file

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 6 1895

No 2291.

Legation of the United States,

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
SEP 6 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Peking, July 23, 1895.

ackd. Sept. 7.

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:

The Szechuan Riots.

Synopsis:

Statement of localities where they occurred.

No. 2291.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, July 23, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that riots occurred during the last days of May and early in June in Szechuan at the following places: Ch'engtu (the capital); Kuan Hsien; Sin Tu Hsien; Kiong Chĕo; Kia Ting; Ya Chĕo; Mei Chĕo; Sin Fu; Lu Chĕo;

Pao Ning; P'en Shan; and Sin King.

The Methodist Episcopal Mission (American); the American Baptist Mission; the China Inland Mission (English); the Canadian Methodist Mission; and the Roman Catholic Mission were the sufferers. All their property was wrecked. I shall furnish you a detailed statement prepared by American missionaries as soon as it reaches me.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

No. 2292.

Legation of the United States,

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
SEP 6 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Peking, July 24, 1895.

Mr Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Ack'd. Sept. 7.

Subject:

The Ashmore land case at Swatow.

Synopsis:

Case settled. Deed delivered. Proclamation issued.

No. 2292.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, July 24, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I have received from Consul Seymour the following telegram dated the 22d instant:

"Minister Denby, Peking.
"Ashmore case settled.
"Deed and proclamation
"issued. Seymour."

Thus happily ends a long and difficult land case, which has given the Consul and this Legation infinite trouble and annoyance.

The land in dispute, to which the title in Ashmore is now confirmed, is said to be worth two hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

COPIED - FOREIGN RELATIONS.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Ackd. Sept 9
SEP 11 1895

No. 2293.

Legation of the United States.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
SEP 6 1895
DEPT OF STATE

Peking, July 26th, 1895.

A

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 19 1895

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

The Szechuan Riots.

Synopsis

Minister suggests the creation of an international commission to examine into the subject.

Mr Adee

3rd. ASST. SECRETARY
SEP 6 1895

The last paragraph is the only one of importance. Does not the Dept. pass on all claims before allowing them to be presented?

Mr. Rockhill:

There is abundant precedent for accepting a tender of indemnity which is satisfactory to the sufferers, without prior instns from Washington, as in the Chung King outrages, when the British consul's recommendations were accepted by Denby and the Yamen. In the Chengtu case we should await the result of the investigation. In my note early in August to Lord Gough relating to the proposed cooperation in the Kutien investigation I concurred in the recommendation that investigation and punishment of delinquent officials should precede any pecuniary demands, and my telegram to Mr Denby directing such cooperation expressed the same view. I think the Chengtu business should be treated on the same basis.

Sept 6.

Adee

Mr Adee

3rd. ASST. SECRETARY
SEP 10 18

Denby says "I will also support any of my colleagues who shall demand the punishment of delinquent officials."

The position now taken by the Dept is that it cannot urge punishment on the report of a commission of inquiry on which it was not represented; ~~that~~ As things are now going by cable I fancy that there is no use dwelling on this in acknowledging this despatch, especially as in an instruction sent a few days ago this was told him – I think a simple acknowledgment of this despatch will be sufficient.

WL

Mr Adee

3rd. ASST. SECRETARY
SEP 6 1895

The last paragraph is the only one of importance. Does not the Dept. pass on all claims before allowing them to be presented?

WR

Mr. Rockhill:

There is abundant precedent for accepting a tender of indemnity which is satisfactory to the sufferers, without prior instns from Washington, as in the Chung King outrages, when the British consuls recommendations were accepted by Denby and the Yamen. In the Chengtu case we should await the result of the investigation. In my note early in August to Lord Gough relating to the proposed cooperation in the Kutien investigation I concurred in the recommendation that investigation and punishment of delinquent officials should precede any pecuniary demands, and my telegram to Mr Denby directing such cooperation expressed the same view — I think the Chengtu business should be treated on the same basis.

Sept 6.

AAA

One enclosure.

No. 2293.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, July 26th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In my despatch No. 2288, of the 12th instant, I informed you that I had appointed Rev. Spencer Lewis, of Chungking, to sit with the British consul and an English missionary, on a commission to assemble at Chentu, for the purpose of examining into the causes of the recent anti-foreign riots in the province of Szechuan, and matters connected therewith.

I have received today from the Consul General a report of the proceedings of a large meeting, held by Americans at Shanghai, at which resolutions were adopted praying the Government of the United States to appoint a commission, headed by a consul of the highest rank, to examine into the whole subject. The report of these proceedings has been forwarded to you. After reflection, and somewhat influenced by the action of the Americans above mentioned, I have concluded that the commission proposed by the British Minister would not be sufficiently impressive, and that public sentiment in the United States would not approve of there being only one American on so important a commission. I have accordingly notified the British Minister that the appointment of Lewis was countermanded, and that I would take no part in any commission until I had received instructions from you. The question before you now is whether you will direct the organization of a commission composed exclusively of Americans for the purposes indicated.

The question at issue, that is the protection of foreigners in China, is one of the utmost gravity. It is known to you that no mode has ever been devised for the prevention of riots, which occur almost continuously in some part of the Empire. They involve, of course, great danger to life, enormous destruction of property and suspension or cessation of foreign residence in the localities where they occur. In anti-foreign out-breaks, no distinction is made by the mob between persons of different nationalities.

It follows that all nations are interested in the questions involved. I am, therefore, of the opinion that, instead of organizing one commission for each nationality, a commission representing all the Western Powers should be created. There is no reason why they should not all take part in such action, except, perhaps, in the case of Russia, whose laws as to foreign ecclesiastics are peculiar.

1/2293 I enclose a clipping from the North China Daily News of the 18th instant, embodying certain resolutions, passed by a meeting of foreigners at Hankow, which strike me as sensible. Should you approve of the idea of holding an international commission, it occurs to me that you might with great propriety take the initiative in the movement. The reasons are too obvious to require mention why the lead of the United States in so important a matter would be agreeable to China as well as to the other powers.

I suppose that the plan indicated would produce as little delay as would the appointment of a commission composed of Americans alone, as it is not likely that the President would appoint such a commission unless he were authorized to do so by Congress.

I respectfully await your instructions on the whole subject. It is proper to state that, unless otherwise directed by you, I will present any claim of any sufferer by the riots for payment, without referring the same to you. I will also support any of my colleagues who shall demand the punishment of delinquent officials.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Enclosure: Clipping as above.

Enclosure in No. 2243.

Clipping from North China Daily News July 18th, 1895.

The Rev. David Hill, Wesleyan Mission, moved the second resolution, which was as follows:—

Whereas for many years past, numerous and extensive riots have occurred in many parts of China, directed against missionaries and other foreigners, whereby serious damage has been done to health and property, while in some cases lives have been taken and

Whereas no effectual measures have thus far been adopted for the prevention of these outbreaks, and—

Whereas foreign property has lately been destroyed on an unprecedented scale, both in Chêngtu—the provincial capital,—and in other cities of the Szechuan province, (where hitherto the people have always manifested an exceptionally quiet and friendly spirit), thus breaking up the homes of many missionaries and interrupting for an indefinite period important missionary work, and—

Whereas these periodical outbreaks have been frequently caused, and ill-feeling has been continuously fomented, by the wide circulation of blasphemous and calumnious literature which has emanated chiefly from the province of Hunan,—

We venture more respectfully to urge upon the Ministers and Representatives of the Governments concerned the following suggestion for their consideration:—

(*a*) That a searching investigation into the Szechuan riots be undertaken by accredited officials representing each of the governments involved; that this investigation be conducted at Chêngtu, in the place where the trouble commenced; and that one missionary, at least, of each mission involved should be present at the investigation.

(*b*) That the Missionaries and the Missions should be fully indemnified for their losses. The indemnity shall not be limited to the actual cost of the things destroyed.

(*c*) That the missionaries shall be reinstated with official recognition at all the places from which they have been ejected.

(*d*) That in dealing with those criminally concerned in the riots whether by personal instigation, culpable neglect, or actual violence, strict impartiality should be preserved, irrespective of rank or position.

(*e*) That the right of missionaries to reside in the interior should be placed on a clearly defined treaty basis, and this right should be made known by Imperial Proclamation throughout all parts of the Empire.

In addition to the above we would respectfully state that in our opinion as long as the province of Hunan is allowed to maintain its present condition of isolation and exclusiveness, it is likely that the anti-foreign riots will continue, and we would suggest that no step is better calculated to bring these riots to an end, and ensure peace in future than the definite opening of that important province.

ackdg no [illegible] File

No. 2254

3rd. ASST. SECRETARY
SEP 6 1895

DIPLOMA
SEP 6 1895

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
SEP 6 1895
DEPT OF STATE

Legation of the United States,
Peking, July 27, 1895.

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:
Acknowledgment of despatch
and circular.

No. 2294.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, July 27, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 1087 of the 13th ultimo and Circular announcing your appointment as Secretary of State.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

No. 2295.

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 3rd, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
SEP 23 1895
DEPT OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 24 1895

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Ackd
Sept 25

Subject

The Chentu riots.

Synopsis

Encloses a copy of a despatch to the Yamen with reference thereto.

No. 2295. One enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, August 3rd, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, a copy of a despatch addressed by me, this date, to the Tsungli Yamên, with reference to the riots at Chentu.

1/2295

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Enclosure:
Mr. Denby to the Yamên No. 20
August 3rd 1895.

Enclosure in No. 2295.

Mr. Denby to the Tsungli Yamên.

No. 20 August 3rd 1895.

Your Highness and
Your Excellencies:

I have the honor to call your attention to facts connected with the recent riots in Szechuan which are completely established by proof made by persons who were present when the riots occurred.

1o There can be no doubt that the local officials are responsible for these disturbances.

This appears from the following written documents among others: a proclamation issued by Li Taotai, General Manager of Foreign Affairs, which repudiates the recent Berthemy ? Gérard (?) Convention; a proclamation issued by Chou Taotai, a Hunan man and chief of police for the two hsiens of the capital, wherein he states the horrible falsehood that foreigners decoy and kidnap small children; the proclamation of the Viceroy Liu, May 29th last, that foreigners caused trouble at the "Tuan Yang" feast; placards which were put up, and not removed by the police, to the effect that "foreign barbarians" are hiring evil characters to kidnap small children that they may extract oil from them for their use, and that the English, French and Americans did not drive out the Japanese and, therefore, they must be driven out.

2° All these things were done or suffered to be done by the authorities. They all tended to excite and encourage the rioters.

3° From proof in my possession it also appears that the rioters assembled at the northeast corner of the city and had to go the entire length of the parade ground and past the soldiers' camp to the first point of attack — the Canadian Methodist Mission. No effort was made to stop them, and when the missionaries fled to the camp for protection they were driven out and one lady was brutally kicked by a soldier.

4° The Roman Catholic Mission, only a stone's throw from the vice-regal yamên, was boldly looted and demolished.

5° Until the above mentioned proclamations issued the attitude of the people was friendly.

6° There were thousands of soldiers stationed in and about the city, and there were three camps, with several hundred foreign drilled troops in each, and they did not attempt to protect the foreigners.

7° The destruction and looting at Chentu extended over thirty six hours and during all this time the officials did nothing and this notwithstanding the fact that there was a cessation of rioting for five hours.

8º The soldiers and Yamên runners participated in the rioting.

9º When at daylight, the second day of the riots, some missionaries went to the Yamên of the Hua Yang Hsien magistrate for protection they were told he was asleep.

10º The telegraph operator at Chentu was forbidden to transmit messages for the missionaries, while, at the same time, messages were being sent, it is said by the Viceroy, that a mutilated child had been found. It was ten days before the fate of the missionaries was known at Shanghai. Imagine the horror of the suspense.

11º The local officials did nothing to restore order until orders reached them from Peking.

12º It is apparent from the immediate

occurrence of riots at many other places in Szechuan that there was concerted action between the capital and outlying towns. There is no doubt that, with the knowledge of the officials, a general plan was organized to drive out of the province all foreigners.

13° These riots swept away in a few days the fruit of years of toil and sacrifice, done and endured with no object except to do good to the Chinese people. They made homeless and wanderers twenty four adult American citizens and they subjected to violence, insult and injury, many helpless women and innocent children.

These facts are indisputable. It remains to discuss the remedies, if there can be remedies for the wrongs and sufferings above detailed.

I demand of the Government of China:

1st The prompt, condign and adequate punishment of the guilty officials, whatever their rank or station may be.

2nd That by imperial proclamation the foreigners be permitted immediately to return to Szechuan to take and occupy their property and that, until they can rebuild their houses, they be furnished by the local officials with suitable abiding places.

3rd That the viceroy of Szechuan be ordered to issue a proclamation that the foreigners have the right to reside and prosecute their work in that province.

4th That an imperial proclamation issue rehearsing the right of missionaries to reside in and carry on their work in every part of China, and that copies of this proclamation be put up in every yamên by the orders of the viceroys themselves.

5th

5° That when the demands for damages are presented — as they will be — they be promptly paid and, if possible, that they be paid out of the local treasuries, so that the local authorities may suffer primarily for their crimes.

6° That the author of one of the placards mentioned, one Chou, who has been promoted to be acting Taotai at Yachou, be immediately degraded and rendered incapable of ever holding office again.

7° That a proper and suitable military force be kept, under stringent orders, at Chungking.

8° That Li Taotai be kept at Chungking.

It is still uncertain what combined action the Western Powers will take on the questions involved in the Chentu riots - That something open, bold and aggressive must be done is apparent. Riots in which peaceable foreigners are periodically burnt out of house and home and subjected to untold sufferings must cease. If these things can occur the treaties and imperial proclamations are waste paper.

China at this time owes it to herself, if not to the foreign powers, that riots should be made impossible.

I submit that, unless the imperial government is willing to admit that it is unable to control the provinces that are remote from the capital, the Western Powers must look to it for protection. I should exceedingly regret to have to conclude that the imperial government is powerless in Szechuen, but if facts and results show that this conclusion is well founded, then the Western Powers will be compelled to devise other means to protect the foreigners who under the treaties and with the open and avowed consent of the imperial government, are residents of China.

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

OCT 16

No. 2296

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 3, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
SEP 6 1895
DEPT OF STATE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State. ✓ Ans'd. Oct. 19

Subject:

The American Concession at Tientsin.

Synopsis:

Report thereon enclosed.
Rumors of intended cession to other Powers. Minister protests.
Awaits your instructions.

Three enclosures.

No 2296

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 3rd 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I have received a despatch from the Consul at Tientsin wherein he states that he apprehends that the Tsungli Yamen has issued instructions to lay off a concession for the Germans adjoining the British concession at that city.

It is supposed that the territory so to be laid off is what was formerly known as the American Concession.

1/2296 I enclose herewith an account of the American Concession which was prepared by the First Secretary and embraces all the information contained in the archives of this Legation.

I judged it prudent, awaiting instructions from you, to direct the Consul to send to the Viceroy at Tientsin a protest against 2/2296 the contemplated action.

a

a copy whereof is enclosed.

I sent also to the Yamen a protest of which a copy is enclosed.

It remains for you to determine whether the Government of the United States shall demand a relegation of the disused and abandonned American concession or not.

The points presented in enclosure 1 are the following:

1st There is no record of any deed to the United States of the territory embraced in the Concession, nor of any acceptance by the United States thereof

2d Many references in the archives, however, show that the concession was made and accepted.

3d It appears from documents that the Superintendent of Northern Trade in 1860 set out the concession.

4th Americans bought land therein.

5th Messrs Denny and Pethick - American Consuls - supervised the concession in and after 1887.

6th Mr Mangum, in 1880, gave up the control of the concession and turned it over to the Chinese authorities reserving the right to retake it at pleasure

7th Taotai Cheng, 14th October 1880, recognized the right to have the settlement revert to the United States.

8th Subsequent correspondence between the Department and the Legation shows that the Government still maintained its right to the concession.

The above is a very brief abstract of the contents of enclosure No. 1.

The conclusions arrived at in that paper are approved by me.

I have deemed it best to set out the facts and leave the determination of the question whether we shall demand jurisdiction over the concession to be decided by you without any recommendation from me.

The policy of the Government has been so marked - as at Shanghai - in declining to accept and exercise jurisdiction over granted territory, that the subject assumes importance as a phase of international polity, touching on great principles. Should you desire to be informed as to any collateral points which may affect your decision I will forward all such information as you may direct.

However you may decide

the question I trust that my measures of precaution will be approved.

Particular attention is called to Mr Young's despatch to Mr Frelinghuysen No 2^{4}11 October 24th, 1883, which contains copies of all the Tientsin archives bearing on the subject.

Since writing the above I have concluded that it might be more satisfactory to you for me to mention some of the advantages claimed by Americans in China growing out of the possession of a foreign concession. It is claimed that national standing and importance are enhanced; that American control benefits American trade; that increased building and residence and business facilities are needed at Tientsin; that if our rights are now abandonned they will be forever lost; that our resumption of jurisdiction would substitute a well ordered municipality for native rule; and that Americans if they had a concession would settle therein and go into business.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

List

List of Inclosures.

1. The American Concession at Tientsin.
2. Copy of protest sent to the Viceroy.
3. Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamen

July 31, 1895.

Enclosure 1 in No. 2296

The American Concession at Tientsin.

There are no records in the archives of this Legation definitely indicating the origin of the American Concession at Tientsin. No record has been preserved of any deed or grant thereof to the United States, nor of an acceptance of such deed or grant by the United States, nor of the definite assumption by the government of any responsibilities with reference to the land comprised therein. There are, however, so many references in the correspondence between the Legation, the Department and the Tientsin Consulate to assertions of rights and acts indicative of control, committed with the knowledge of the American and Chinese governments, on the part of American authorities, as to show conclusively that the American Concession at Tientsin was in the past regarded as under American control, to the same degree as the English and French Concessions are under the control of those governments. Nor is there any indication, except a provisional and unauthorized abandonment of jurisdiction by an

American Consul at Tientsin — and this abandonment asserts a power to reassume such jurisdiction — that any relinquishment has ever been made of such rights of the United States. It seems, as far as the archives of this Legation indicate, that the American consular authorities at Tientsin have the right to reassert the claims of the United States to the land in the said concession, the boundaries of which are indicated in the archives, upon the terms on which said land was set apart for American occupation some thirty five years ago.

This will appear from the following history of this concession gathered from the Legation archives.

There is no contemporaneous reference in the archives either of this Legation or of the Tientsin Consulate* to the allotment of land by the Chinese authorities for American residents at that port. This omission is explained by the fact that in 1860, when the concessions were laid out, there was no American Consul at Tientsin and no American minister at Peking. The American Legation was first established at Peking by the arrival of Mr Burlingame 20th July 1862. It would be natural not to have kept a record of such a transaction under these circumstances even if a report thereof had been made. The existence of the concession is, however, recognized in repeated later documents.

---

*Copies of the Consular records on the Tientsin Concession were sent to Mr Young in 1883 and forwarded by him to the Department in despatch No. 271 Oct 24, 1883 - Vol 117 p. 346

From these it appears that Chung Hou, Superintendent of Northern Trade, did, in 1860, set out at Tientsin three tracts of land for English, French and American residents along the Peiho River above and below the Tzu Chu Lin temple. In a letter from Mr Pethick [Vol 117 p 360] to Mr Zuck, U. S. Consul at Tientsin, under date Sept. 8th 1883, he says that Mr Meadows* had related to him that he was in Tientsin when the land was laid out by Chung Hou for the English and French concessions and that Mr Meadows asserted that, to his personal knowledge Chung Hou set apart a piece of ground, at the same time and in the same manner, for Americans, said piece extending from the river to Taku Road and from the English concession to the Canton and Foochow cemetery.

---

* Mr Meadows was a resident of Tientsin in 1860. In 1866 he was appointed Acting U. S. Consul.

When Tientsin was opened for trade, merchants of various nationalities came to Tientsin and among them were several Americans, who all bought land in the American concession and nowhere else. Messrs Russell and Co., Heard and Co., Olyphant and Co., were amongst this number and Dr S. W. Williams, Secretary of the United States Legation. The fact that Americans confined themselves to this place, though desirable sites were to be had elsewhere, shows that an understanding, perhaps a definite agreement, as to the concession, then existed.

The terms on which land was bought in the English and French concessions were 30 taels _per_ mou for the land, reimbursement to Chinese owners for houses etc. thereon, and the payment of 1500 cash _per_ mou _per annum_ land tax to the government. [See J. Morgan, Br. Con. to J.A. Meadows U. S. V. Con. Jan. 4 '69. Vol 117 p. 356].

It is presumed that land on the American concession was sold on the same terms for, in 1869, S. W. Williams had some trouble collecting rents from houses on the land he had bought and the terms of his purchase came under discussion. Chung Hou told Mr Meadows, acting U. S. Consul, that Mr Williams should have his land on the same terms as the English and French had secured theirs [Vol 117 p. 353]. In this conversation Chung Hou said that "all "the consuls based their "claims in China on the "treaties the spirit of which "was alike for all foreigners". This would indicate a recognition of a right on the part of Americans to hold land in their concession, which Chung Hou had laid out for them, on the same terms as the French and English in their concessions.

In these days no official control was exercised over the concession by Americans but the existence of their rights therein seem to have been universally recognized.* In Consul Denny's time**, however, a proposition was made by Chu Chi Chao, holding rank of taotai and then owner of the North Chihli copper mines, to bund the American concession in consideration of receiving wharfage dues for a term of years. For some reason this was not accepted but Mr Denny decided to exercise control over the concession himself. Police was established, streets cleared etc., and the expense met by a house tax and shop tax which the Chinese residents gladly paid. These facts were known to the Chinese authorities and no question was ever raised by them. On the contrary, the Customs Taotai [Cheng Tsao-ju, later Minister to Washington] appealed to the U. S. Consul to exercise his control there to regulate the control of prostitutes. So thoroughly was the concession regarded as American that Mr. Denny is said to have thought of putting his consulate there.

---

*See Pethick's letter to Consul Zuck. Vol 117 p. 360.

**Appointed 1877.

Mr Pethick, in capacity of Acting consul, succeeded Mr Denny, and continued his supervision of the concession. His successor, W. P. Mangum, formed different ideas upon the subject, the reason whereof does not clearly appear. Under date of 12th Oct 1880, [Vol 117 p. 357] he wrote the Customs taotai that there being some irregularities in the manner in which the police regulation of the concession was carried on, he had dismissed the force and proposed to relegate the concession back to its former status" with the understanding "that if, at some future time, "it shall become desirable to "establish suitable municipal "regulation therein, it shall "be competent for the consular "authorities to do so." Under date of the 14 Oct. 1880, the Taotai Chêng acknowledged receipt of the despatch and stated that he would instruct the proper authorities to take such measures as "would perhaps obviate the "necessity of returning again "to the present system of "Administration".

He stated, however, that if any American consul in future should "desire to "have the settlement revert "to the present system of "administration, he must first "arrange with the Customs "Taotai as to the mode of "administration; and if there

"be nothing objectionable in
"same, then there should be
" nothing to prevent the
" settlement from reverting
" to the original government"
[Vol 117 p. 358].

From that date no exercise of municipal functions has been exerted by American authorities.

That, however, the United States government regarded its rights in the concession as beyond doubt and that it had not relinquished them; is shown by correspondence between the Legation and the

Department in 1882 and subsequent years.

In 1882, it was proposed by the English and French consuls and the Chinese authorities to levy a tax on foreign imports and exports and to divide the proceeds among them for the purpose of building roads and other purposes. Some of these roads were to be beyond the limits of the concessions. Mr. Holcombe, Chargé d'affaires, protested against this tax and reported the subject to the Department of State [No 76 March 25th 1882]. Though his argument is chiefly based on the illegality of the tax, as not being authorized by treaty, he calls attention to the American concession and to the fact that no part of the funds collected was to be expended thereon.

Mr Frelinghuysen in reply [No 18 July 5th 1882] refers to the organization of the three concessions and makes no objection to the claims on behalf of the American concession. He decides, however, that the proposed tax is not objectionable, if not excessive, and that it must be submitted to on the ground that such municipalities have the right to levy dues on shipping in return for wharfage facilities granted.

Before the receipt of Mr Frelinghuysen's instructions, however, viz. on April 26th 1882, Mr Holcombe* came to terms on the questions in dispute between himself and the other representatives and in a written agreement it was provided that, after April 1st 1883, the American concession should share in the proceeds of the tax and that no part of it should be spent beyond the limits of the concessions. With this understanding the American opposition to the tax was withdrawn. This agreement is often referred to in the archives as "the agreement of April 26th 1882."**

---

* Holcombe to Frelinghuysen No 90 Apl. 28th, 1882.

In 1883 [No 271 Oct. 24, 1883] Mr Young wrote Mr. Frelinghuysen calling attention to the fact that the clause in the above agreement, providing that a certain part of the tax above noted should, after April 1st 1883, be devoted to funding the American concession, had not been carried out and that he had directed the Consul to object to said tax being collected from American goods. Mr Frelinghuysen replied to this

---

** This agreement was approved by Mr Frelinghuysen No 19 July 7th 1882.

this despatch and stated that "the Department is of "the opinion that the agreement "referred to by Mr Zuck. "Consul at Tientsin, of April 26th "1882, should be insisted on "and carried out; and that "with the New Year the "American concession shall "receive its due benefit from "the wharfage dues."

He stated that he had laid this demand before the English and French Governments through the American Ministers,* and a subsequent despatch from him [No 232 Mar. 11. 1884] encloses a despatch from

---

* Mr Frelinghuysen to Mr Young No 197 Dec. 29th 1883.

Mr Morton, U. S. Minister at Paris, reporting that he had notified France of the claims of the United States.

A copy of the former instruction was sent to Mr Pilcher, U. S. Vice Consul at Tientsin on March 1st 1884. The demand of the United States for a share in the wharfage dues was laid by him before the Consular Body at Tientsin and rejected by them. In a joint note to Mr Pilcher, dated March 10th 1884, they give the reasons for their refusal under two heads: 1° that the limits of the American concession are not publicly known, and that no necessity exists at Tientsin for further funding facilities; 2° that the wharfage dues were not large enough for further division. [Mr Pilcher to Mr. Young No 78 March 12th 1884].

Mr. Smithers, when Chargé d'Affaires, wrote Consul Bromley [No 1 Apl. 18, 1885], withholding his assent to the then existing arrangement for the levying of wharfage dues, though he conceded that Americans might pay for wharfage facilities if they pleased to continue to do so. Shortly afterwards Mr Smithers wrote [illegible] Mr Bayard [No 10 Apl. 29, 1885]

basing the withholding of his consent to the continuance of the wharfage dues on the indisposition of the foreign ministers to set aside a part thereof for the purpose of constructing a bund on the American concession.
To this were added other reasons based on a misapplication of the funds. Mr Smithers' action was approved by Mr Bayard [No 442 June 23rd 1885], since when the subject seems not to have been under further discussion

It is necessary to call

attention to one important distinction between the status of the American concession and the status of the English and French concessions at Tientsin. The land marked off for English residence and offered to the English consul, on the terms heretofore stated viz. 30 taels *per* mou purchase price for the land, compensation for buildings thereon and 1500 cash *per* mou *per* annum land rent, was all bought by the English Government and the title vested in the crown. This land was then sold, on certain conditions, to persons desiring to purchase. France adopted the same system. No such action was ever taken by the United States.

This is not, however, an argument against American claims to the American concession because such action was not contemplated by the Chinese authorities and because it would have been just as practicable for English and French residents to take title directly from the Chinese Government, and not through their own governments, as was in fact done by Americans in the American concession.

Nor is the vague character of American title to the concession an argument against the existence of such title, for the growth of concessions into their present character of colonial establishments was not contemplated by the Chinese in setting aside land for foreign residents. On the contrary it is probable that they intended foreign jurisdiction to assume some such rudimentary and undeveloped character as was for a time exercised over the American concession by the United States Consular authorities.

No concessions seem to have been based on treaty stipulation. The jurisdiction existing over them is largely the result of custom and usage — an unforseen though perhaps natural growth. The American concession might, like the others, easily have grown into a highly developed American municipality. The fact that it has not is no argument against the present existence of a title as good as that of other countries was when grants of land were made to them all in equal terms thirty five years ago.

The conclusion seems unavoidable that a grant of a concession, at Tientsin, was made to Americans, at the same time and in the same terms as to English and French subjects; that though no record of this grant exists in the U. S. Archives the absence of such a record appears sufficiently explained; that this grant was accepted by the authorities of the United States and this acceptance is abundantly proved by many acts of American citizens and the american authorities; that no cause has been operative to impair the American title to this concession but many acts of United States Consuls and citizens have confirmed it; that this title exists to-day unweakened by the failure of the United States Government to take the same advantage thereof as was taken of similar grants by other powers but on the contrary that the extensive exercise of jurisdiction by such powers was entirely unforseen in the original grants; that the said title of the United States has not been revoked but may be reasserted by the United States at will.

Enclosure 2 in No. 2296.

To His Excellency the Viceroy

I have the honor to inform you that in the year 1860 there was laid out at Tientsin three tracts of land for English, French and American residents. The Government of the United States exercised jurisdiction over the tract which was granted to it for many years.

The 12th day of October 1880 the said concession was relegated to its former status" with the understanding that if at some future time it shall become desirable to establish suitable municipal regulation therein it shall be competent for the Consular authorities to do so."

Under date of October 14, 1880 the Taotai Chêng acknowledged receipt of the despatch sent to him by the Consul two days before and stated that if any American Consul in future should "desire to have the settlement revert to the present system of administration he must first arrange with the Customs Taotai as to the mode of administration; and if there be nothing objectionable in same, then there should be nothing to prevent the settlement from reverting to

the original Government."
All of which appears of record.

The Minister of the United States, having heard that a movement was on foot to cede jurisdiction over the original American Concession to other powers has instructed me to enter a solemn protest against such action.

The Minister of the United States has notified the Tsungli Yamen of this procedure, and has reported the matter to his Government, and after receiving instructions will communicate with you further.

Enclosure 3 in No. 2296.

Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamen

July 31st, 1895.

I have the honor to inform you that in the year 1860 the Superintendent of Northern Trade set out at Tientsin three tracts of land for English, French and American residents.

The American Consul exercised jurisdiction over the land so allotted to Americans for many years.

The 12th day of October 1880 the Taotai Chêng acknowledged receipt of the Consul's despatch and stated that if any

American Consul in future should "desire to have the settlement revert to the present system of administration he must first arrange with the Customs Taotai as to the mode of administration and if there be nothing objectionable in same then there should be nothing to prevent the settlement from reverting to the original Government."

All this appears of record and it also appears since 1880 through repeated action of the United States Minister here and the honorable Secretary of State that the

Government of the United States has never relinquished its rights over the American Concession.

I do not propose at this time to present a full argument on the question of the right of my Government to retake jurisdiction over the ceded territory. It will be time enough to do this when the right is disputed. All that I desire to do now is to give you notice that I have understood that proceedings are pending having for their object to cede the territory mentioned to one or more other powers.

Against such cession or attempt at cession I enter my solemn protest.

I have referred this matter to my Government and will address you further when I shall have received instructions.

What I now ask is that you immediately instruct the Viceroy at Tientsin to cease all action looking to the cession of any portion of the American concession to any power whatever.

To Navy Aug 8/95
Confirmed Aug 14/95

TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

From Pekin
5 August, 1895.
Received M.

Olney
Washington, D.C.

Have received your telegram of 3rd
Ten English killed, three wounded in riots
at Kputien. No Americans injured.
Have demanded protection Americans.

Denby

of Americans.

No. 2297. File. COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, August 5th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
SEP 23 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Riot at Kutien in Fukien

Synopsis

Confirms Department's telegram of 3rd instant and reply thereto. Mr. Denby has demanded of the Chinese Government the protection of Americans.

No. 2297.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, August 5th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm your cipher telegram of the 3rd instant as follows:

"Jernigan reports riots Kutien,
"American lady wounded. Ask
"instant protection";

and of my cipher telegram to you of this date as follows:

"I have received your cipher
"telegram of third, ten English
"killed, three wounded, in
"riots at Kutien. No American
injured

"injured. Have demanded
"protection Americans".

Before receiving the Department's instruction above confirmed, I had received telegraphic information of this riot and its fatal result. At first it was reported that one American lady was wounded, but subsequent advices indicate that the killed and wounded are all English and that the American residents of the locality of the riot without exception escaped uninjured to Foochow.

Kutien is a hsien city ninety miles northwest of Foochow, in the province of Fukien. In this city and vicinity there were several English and American mission stations. No details are yet at hand of the disastrous affair of which it has now been the scene and we have no explanation of the origin thereof. It is known, however, that the murderers were a band of one hundred Chinese of the vegetarian sect. The killed comprise eight women, one man and one child; the wounded one woman and two children.

I have expressed to the Yamên my horror at this outrage and have demanded of them the protection of Americans.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
SEP 23 1895

No 2298.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 5th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
SEP 23 1895
DEPT OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
SEP 23 1895

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:
The Japanese administration
in Manchuria.

Synopsis:
Governor General and other
officials appointed.

One enclosure.

No. 2298.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 5th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose a "memorandum on the Japanese administration in the occupied territory of Manchuria" which was sent to me by the Vice-Consul at Newchwang.

It is very uncertain how long the Japanese occupation of this territory may continue.

It is reported here that China will refuse to pay any sum of money as an indemnity for the recession of the territory.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

1. Memorandum on the Japanese administration in the occupied territory of Manchuria.

Enclosure in No. 2298.

Memorandum on the Japanese Administration in the occupied territory of Manchuria.

By Imperial Decree No. 38, dated the 30th March 1895 was promulgated the "Organization of the Office of the Governor General for occupied Territories." By virtue of this Decree the office was established in Kinchow and Lieut. General Baron Sakuma appointed Governor General. The functions of this office are - subject to the orders of the Head Quarters - to hold supreme command of all the land forces stationed in the occupied territory, to preserve order and tranquility, and to superintend the civil administration in the same. As one of the sections of the Governor-General's office, there is an Administrative Department, presided over by Major General Ibaraki, which exercises direct control over the Administrative Offices – as they are now established – in different parts of the territory. The situation of these offices and the names of their Chiefs are as follows:

Port Arthur	Lieut Colonel	Watanabe	I.J.
Foochow	" "	Ogasawara	I.G.
Pitzuwo	Major	Oza	I.J.
Kaiping	Lieut Colonel	Awaya	I.J.

Haicheng

Haicheng	Colonel Takid I.J.
Antung	Lieut Colonel Tominaga I.J.
Feng Huang Cheng	Captain Mori I.J.
Siu Yen	Major Kanbe I.J.
Ta Koo San	" Kumasawa I.J.
Newchwang	Secretary Mitsuhashi

The division of work into sections of each office is left to the discretion of the respective chiefs, but generally speaking, there are three sections of (1) General Business (2) Finance and (3) Translation, besides a force of Gendarmerie who exercises the duties of the Executive and judicial Police. In the office for Newchwang there is an additional section for Customs Business.

The staff at each office include one or two Military or Civil officers but the number of writers, accountants, and interpreters varies according to the amount of work etc. The said officers preside over the different sections but are entirely subordinate to the Chiefs.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
aab
SEP 23 1895

No 2299.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 5th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
SEP 23 1895
DEPT OF STATE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 23 1895

Subject:
The new Chinese Minister
to Japan.

Synopsis:
Mr Yü has been appointed.

No 2299.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 5th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that Mr Yü Kang has been appointed Chinese Minister to Japan and will leave for his post in a few days.

He has been attached to the suite of Prince Kung during the past winter and spring.

He has an interesting family,

Madam Yü being the daughter of an American, her mother being Chinese. She and two interesting daughters speak English passably. Mr Yü is a man of respectable abilities and is liberal towards foreigners. He will have the difficult task of making the treaty of cession of the Manchurian territory - a question which will cause a great deal of trouble.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

File

No. 2300.

Legation of the United States,

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
SEP 23 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Peking, August 7th, 1895.

Mr Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject:

Acknowledgment of despatches.

No. 2300.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 7th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches as follows:

No. 1088 of June 19, 1895;
" 1089 " " 20, " ;
" 1090 " " " "
" 1091 " " 21 "
" 1092 " " " "
" 1093 " " " "
" 1094 " " " "

No. 1095 of June 25, 1895
" 1096 " " " "
Also your personal letter
dated June 22, 1895.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

No. 2301.

3d. ASST. SECRETARY

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 8th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
SEP 23 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Destruction of American property at Yungfuh.

Synopsis

Confirms telegrams on the subject.

No. 2301.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, August 8th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm your telegram, of the seventh instant, as follows:

"Hixon reports American property
"Yungfuh burned ask instant
"protection and repression";

and my reply thereto, of this date, as follows:

"Have received telegram seventh.
"Yungfuh case was reported
"yesterday to Chinese Government.
"They promise protection [and] redress".

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

A K.: File

3rd. ASST. SECRETARY SEP 24 1895

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU, SEP 24 1895

No. 2302.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 8th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU RECD. SEP 23 1895 DEPT. OF STATE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Secretary of State, SEP 23 1895

Ack'd Sept. 26.

Subject:

The proposed retrocession of part of Manchuria.

Synopsis:

The Vice-Consul at Newchwang should continue to report to this Legation. Observations on the condition of China and her relations to European powers.

No. 2302.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 8th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

The Vice-Consul at Newchwang, Mr J. Frederick Bandinel, continues to report to me, though that town is located in territory which now belongs to Japan.

As it is understood that Japan may soon cede that portion of Feng-tien, in Manchuria, back to China,

I

I have not felt called upon to make any representations to you on the subject. It must be said, however, that although Japan did notify China that the retrocession would take place, the date at which it would be done, and the conditions attending it, have never been defined.

There is no doubt that China has announced that she would refuse to pay the additional indemnity of seven and a half millions of pounds sterling, which Japan is said to demand.

A few remarks on the condition of the far East at this time may not be inappropriate.

Russia, France and Germany are holding over China the threat that they will retire from any cooperation with China unless every demand made by them is granted. The most persistent of the three, as far as now appears, is France. She has secured a Convention under which certain territory adjoining Tonkin is granted to her — territory which England claims China has agreed never to cede to any power. France has secured, also, the mining privileges in three southern provinces, and other rights which have not been made public.

The three powers have amply justified my own prognostics that intervention would be costly for China.

Diplomatically considered the conduct of the tripartite powers was well conceived. They allowed the treaty to be signed, they forced China to ratify it, and they held, and hold their assistance in securing retrocession of the ceded territory subject to the payment of whatever price they choose to demand. They hold China in their clutches. Correspondingly they depreciate Great Britain. As that country did nothing for China, the three powers claim that she is entitled to no concession whatever. Thus, while keeping China in vassalage, they humiliate their Enemy.

The Russian fleet is still concentrated in these waters.

Between Russia and Japan there is intense hostility.

The riots in Szechuan, and the more recent riot in Fookien, of which Foochow is the capital, accentuate the situation. It looks as if China was unable to control her own people, and to protect foreigners against mobs. It would seem, also, that Great Britain will be compelled to take some strenuous action to protect her subjects. The same obligation rests on the United States, but any action taken by us would not involve any general consequences, while, if England shows her teeth, the often prophesied Eastern war may ensue. Great Britain must do something to restore her influence in the East, of which, events have entirely deprived her. She is very restive under the jeers of the world, and the universal attacks hurled against her by every Englishman in the East. Meantime China is utterly helpless. She is drifting without any leadership. Her chief adviser, Li Hung-chang, is under a cloud. Her councils are divided. The members of the Yamên are antagonistic. The most of them are sick. The oldest member, Sun Yu-wen, has retired. The more intelligent of them condemn the bargain with Russia. There is no harmony, and no force, in the Government. The riots have produced a kind of a fatalistic abandonment, and a despair of ever getting out of the national difficulties. There is a great unrest among the people. Returning soldiers carry seeds of riots to their homes. They were braggarts, and cowards in face of the Japanese, but they are truculent and cruel, in dealing with the peaceful and unarmed missionaries.

The idea is abroad that the foreigner did not defend China in her peril; he did not - to quote from a placard put up at Ch'engtu - drive the Japanese out, and now the Chinese will drive the foreigner out. The foray of Japan on China, has done harm instead of good to humanity. It stopped short of civilization, and it left a mortified, angry, untamed, wild beast free to work injury in a spirit of revenge on the helpless, and the innocent.

The war did no good to either combatant. Japan came out of it, in spite of her victories, mortified, humbled, abased in her own eyes, because, at the crook of Russia's finger, she gave up the pretentious claims to territory on the continent — claims, which, had she not been drunk with military success, she would never have asserted.

Recent events show that a general rebellion is imminent in China.

For these reasons and owing to the uncertainty of the near future, I do not advise that any act be done tending to recognize the sovereignty of Japan over any portion of Manchuria. Matters can drift along, as at present - although they are somewhat anomalous. I await, however, your instructions on the subject.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

File

3rd. ASST. SECRETARY
SEP 23 1895

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

No 2303.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 9th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
SEP 23 1895
DEPT OF STATE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:
Recent riots in Fukkien

Synopsis:
Government has ordered arrest and punishment of the murderers and measures to be taken to protect foreigners.

One enclosure.

No.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 9th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose a translation of a communication from the Tsungli Yamên relating to the recent riots at Ku-Tien in the province of Fukkien. It will be seen that the Yamen has ordered the arrest and punishment of the murderers, and that protection be ensured to foreigners.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

1. The Tsungli Yamen to Mr Denby, August 7th 1895.

The Tsungli Yamen to Mr Denby.

Peking, August 7th, 1895.

Your Excellency,

We had the honor on the 5th instant to receive your Excellency's note stating that it had come to your knowledge that a riot of a serious nature had taken place at Ku Tien in the province of Fukkien and that a number of foreigners had been murdered; that you desired to express your horror and regret at this outrageous occurrence against peaceable people and to ask that telegraphic instructions be at once sent to the Viceroy at Foochow to use every means in his power to give full and adequate protection to Americans residing in the province.

With regard to the riot at Ku Tien, where foreigners were murdered, we have the honor to state that on the 5th of August, an Imperial Decree was issued which was telegraphed to the Governor General of Foochow ordering that officer to vigorously arrest the persons concerned in the riot and murder and punish them according to law.

Further the local officials have been instructed to spare no measure in giving due protection to foreigners and to prevent further riots. The telegraphic reply received from Foochow does not give full particulars of the riot and the Yamên again ordered that these be punished, but up to the present no further telegrams have been received.

Any further news that Your Excellency may have received during the past few days we will thank you to communicate to the Yamen and oblige.

AK file

ASST. SECRETARY
SEP 26 1895

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 26 1895

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

No. 2304.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 10th 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
SEP 26 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State

Subject

Riot at Kutien

Synopsis

Yamên promises to act in the matter of protection and redress.

No. 2304.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August, 10th, 1895.

To the Honorable

Richard Olney,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

In my despatch No. 2303, of yesterday's date, I had the honor to enclose a translation of the Yamên's reply to my despatch concerning the murders at Kutien. The subsequent disturbance at Yungfuh, resulting in the destruction of an American chapel, I found it desirable to bring to the Yamên's notice not in writing but in a personal interview.

To my remark to the Yamên that their previous promises of protection appeared, in view of the

Yungfuh affair, to have been futile, they replied that they regretted to admit that such was the case. The disturbed condition of the province they said was such that local officials could not guarantee the safety of foreigners in remote places. They stated, however, that every effort would be made to restore order and secure redress for injuries already done; that to this end two imperial decrees had been sent by telegraph to the provincial authorities, and they requested me to rest in the assurance of their earnestness in the matter.

The Consul at Foochow having telegraphed this Legation that cholera was raging there, and having requested that orders be issued from Peking to prohibit the burying of the victims of this disease within the limits of the foreign settlement, I submitted this matter to the Yamên- They stated that they had not been previously informed of the prevalence of the disease, but they undertook to telegraph at once satisfactory instructions as to the burial of the dead-

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS

Confirm

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
AUG 12 1895

From

Peking,

August 11, 1895.

OLNEY,

Washington,

Confirmed aug 14/95

Have received your telegram seventh. Yungfuh case was reported yesterday to Chinese Government. They promise protection redress.

Denby.

3rd. ASST. SECRETARY
SEP 26 1895

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

No 2305.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 12th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
SEP 26 1895
DEPT OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 26 1895

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Ack'd Sept. 27.

Subject:

The anti-foreign riots.

Synopsis:

Imperial decree issued.
Degradation of Chow.

One enclosure.

No 2305.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 12th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose a translation of an Imperial decree which was published in the Peking Gazette the 9th instant relating to anti-foreign riots.
This decree was issued on the demand of H.B.M's Minister, and myself.
It is not as forcible or
definite

definite as we demanded, but in its general terms is satisfactory. It recites the friendly treatment of foreigners by China; the occurrence of riots in Szechuan and Fukien; the atrocity of the circumstances; the arrest of some criminals; instructions to capture the guilty; protective measures to be taken; and provides that proclamations be issued warning the people against rioting, and against circulating or crediting slanders.

The Yamen has agreed to send this decree by telegraph to all the Viceroys and Governors of China. I will see that it is circulated among the American missionaries. The Yamen has, also, agreed that Chow Taotai should be degraded and that publication of his degradation should be made at Ch'êngtu. He was chief of police for the two Hsiens of Ch'êngtu, and he is accused of having put up a placard containing this sentence: "At the present time we have obtained clear proof that foreigners deceive and kidnap small children."

As this publication incited the populace to rioting, I have been very urgent in demanding the degradation of its author, and will, if possible, secure his banishment.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

1. Translation of Imperial decree published in Peking Gazette August 9th, 1895.

Enclosure in No. 2305.

Decree published in Peking Gazette August 9th, 1895.

From the time of Commercial relations with all Western nations up to the present, foreigners have sojourned in the interior and peace and quite have prevailed among them and the Chinese. We have treated them with the same kindly feeling as our own subjects, and have repeatedly issued our commands to the high officers of the provinces, to render to them special protection as occasion made it necessary; but recently, riots have occurred in the Capital of Szechuan resulting in the burning and destruction of missionary establishments. At the same time the flame of excitement in the minds of the people has spread to several districts (Chau's and Hsien's).

Reports have now come to us from Foochow that, several foreigners have been murdered at Ku Tien by outlaws, and the worst of it is, women and children were massacred.

The atrocious and wicked circumstances of the affair have caused us to cherish a bitter hatred towards the perpetrators of the crime. The criminals connected with the Szechuan riots have been apprehended and placed on trial. In the Foochow case the ringleaders have still to be arrested.

Let Ching Yü (Tartar General) and Pien Pao-ti (Governor General) issue instructions to the officers of the military and civil districts with the utmost expedition to surround and capture the outlaws, and not to allow them to escape punishment. This class of worthless and reckless fellows fabricate rumors for the purpose of leading astray the people and instilling suspicions into their minds—

they are to be found in most places. The main thing is for the local officers to be on the lookout and take protective measures, and prevent this evil from taking hold on the minds of the people.

How is it? if officials perform their duties in a perfunctory manner, the result will be that trouble will arise of a serious nature. Let the Tartar Generals, Governors-General and Governors of the provinces give instructions to all the officials in whose districts there are missionary establishments -

that they must energetically protect the missionaries and to proclaim for the information and guidance of the people that they must not give ear to false rumors which are calculated to create doubts and misgivings in the minds of the people and thus lead to trouble. Anyone who dare create disturbances in the future, will surely be severely punished according to law. Any local officers who are remiss in the discharge, of their official duties will also have meted out to them severe punishment, and no leniency whatever will be shown.

Let this Decree be promulgated throughout all the provinces for general information.

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

From Peking

13 August, 1895.

Received 11:30 A.M.

Olney Washington

✓ Confirmed aug 16/95

Will you appoint a commission of Americans exclusively to investigate Szechuan Riots as asked by Americans in China or create international Commission.

Denby

55

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

Legation of U.S. in China
14 Aug 1895

Confirmed Aug 16/95

HIEF CLERK,
Received
AUG 14 1895
Department of State.

11 PM

o. 3.

CABLE MESSAGE.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

INCORPORATED

ll CABLE MESSAGES received for transmission must be written on the Message Blanks provided by this Company for that purpose, under and subject to ditions printed thereon, and on the back hereof, which conditions have been agreed to by the sender of the following message.

THOS. T. ECKERT, President and General Manager.

TWO AMERICAN CABLES FROM NEW YORK TO GREAT BRITAIN.
NECTS ALSO WITH FOUR ANGLO-AMERICAN AND ONE DIRECT U. S. ATLANTIC CABLES.
DIRECT CABLE COMMUNICATION WITH GERMANY AND FRANCE.
LE CONNECTION WITH CUBA, WEST INDIES, MEXICO AND CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA.
MESSAGES SENT TO, AND RECEIVED FROM, ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.

OFFICES IN AMERICA:

All Offices (21,000) of the Western Union Telegraph Company and its Connections.

OFFICES IN GREAT BRITAIN:

DON:
No. 21 Royal Exchange, E. C.
No. 109 Fenchurch Street, E. C.

LIVERPOOL: A5 Exchange Buildings.
GLASGOW: No. 29 Gordon Street.
BRISTOL: Backhall Chambers.

NUMBER	SENT BY	REC'D BY	No. OF WORDS	FROM
394 My	FRt		17	Peking

ECEIVED at 934p Aug 14 1895

353

Olney Washington
I refused to have anything to do with the Szechuan Commission three weeks ago
Denby

No. 2306. File

Legation of the United States.
Peking, August 14th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
SEP 26 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
Confirms telegram of 13th instant.

No 2306.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, August 14th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm my cipher telegram of yesterday's date as follows:

"Will you appoint a commission
"of Americans exclusively to
"investigate Szechuan riots
"as asked by Americans in
"China or create international
"commission".

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

No. 2307.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, August 14th. 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
SEP 26 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
Confirms telegram of this date.

No. 2307.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, August 14th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm my telegram of this date as follows:
"I refused to have anything to
"do with the Szechuan Commission
"three weeks ago."

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

No. 2308.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 14th 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
SEP 26 1895
DEPT OF STATE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Extend Sept. 27.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 26 1895

COPIED FOREIGN RELATIONS,

Subject:

The Szechuan riots

Synopsis:

Encloses communication from Yamen. A weak defense.

One enclosure.

6

No 2308.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 14th 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to
1/08 enclose a translation of a communication from the Tsungli Yamên in answer to my communication which I forwarded to you in despatch No 2295, of August 3rd, relating to the Szechuan riots.

The Yamên makes a weak defense of the local officials which must be read to be properly understood.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

1. The Tsungli Yamên to Mr Denby,
No 25 August 10, 1895.

Enclosure in No. 2308.

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr Denby,

No 25. August 10, 1895.

Upon the 3d instant, the Prince and Ministers had the honor to receive a communication from the Minister of the United States wherein he called attention to facts connected with the recent riots in Szechuan, which are absolutely established by proof. etc. This communication has received due perusal by the Yamen.

It is pointed out that there can be no doubt that the local officials are responsible for these disturbances. This appears from a proclamation issued by Li Taotai, General Manager of Foreign Affairs, which repudiates the Berthemy Convention, a proclamation issued by Chou Taotai, chief of police, wherein he states that foreigners deceive and kidnap small children.

With regard to the Berthemy Convention, it may be stated that not only in Szechuan alone but in other provinces the proclamations issued were not in conformity with the spirit of said Convention.

The French Minister, Mr Gerard, thereupon, addressed the Yamên on the subject and instructions were issued to the authorities of all the provinces to act accordingly in the issuance of proclamations which is a matter of record.

As to the proclamation by Chou, chief of police, in regard to foreigners deceiving and kidnapping small children, the Yamên some time ago telegraphed the Viceroy of Szechuan to carefully investigate the matter.

a

A report has been received by wire that the chief of police had not issued a proclamation in regard to foreigners deceiving and kidnapping small children, but that it was a false report circulated by the people.

It is further stated that placards were put up, and not removed by the police, to the effect that foreign barbarians are hiring evil characters to kidnap small children. Such placards it may be stated, are abominable and detestable in the extreme. A telegram from the Viceroy of Szechuan states that a long time ago these had been rigorously suppressed.

It is again stated that when the missionaries fled to the parade ground for protection from the soldiers they were driven out, and one lady was brutally kicked by a soldier; that the Roman Catholic mission, only a stone's throw from the Viceroyal Yamên, was boldly looted and demolished; that there were thousands of soldiers in and about the city, and they did not attempt to protect the foreigners.

It may be pointed out that during the riots, the people were crowded together raging with fury and the local authorities found that they could not afford proper protection under the existing state of affairs. As to the case of the soldier brutally kicking a woman, the offender, as a matter of course, should be severely punished according to law.

Again it is further stated that it is apparent from the immediate occurrence of riots at many other places in Szechuan, that there was concerted action between the capital and out-lying towns, and with the knowledge of the officials, a general plan was organized to drive out of the province all foreigners; that missionaries had been in Szechuan for many years and that twenty four adult Americans were made homeless, etc.

In regard to the destruction of missionary property it may be stated that it was caused by outlaws suddenly and unexpectedly. How could it be right for the Szechuan people, for no reason, to drive foreigners out of the province. If the officials had knowledge of this beforehand they would certainly have adopted preventive measures to protect the missionaries. How could they allow people at their pleasure to cause trouble?

As to the points in the communication under acknowledgment that adequate punishment is demanded of the Government of China of the guilty officials, whatever their rank or station may be, and that the missionaries be permitted immediately to return to

Szechuan to take and occupy their property; and that until they can rebuild their homes they be furnished by the local officials with suitable abiding places; and that the Viceroy of Szechuan be ordered to issue a proclamation that the foreigners have the right to reside and prosecute their work in that province etc.

In the present instance, the local authorities who failed to exert themselves in giving adequate protection to the missionaries are deserving of blame - and open to censure, and punishment will be necessarily meted out to them.

As to the missionaries returning to Szechuan to rebuild their homes and the issuance of proclamations by the Viceroy that they have the right to reside and prosecute their work in that province, these are questions which the Yamên will bring to the notice of the Viceroy of Szechuan so that he may examine into them and take action accordingly.

In the matter of the payment for damages sustained alluded to in the communication under review, and that they be paid out of the local treasuries or by the local authorities themselves, when the amount has been agreed upon, no matter in what way, China will necessarily pay the same and it does not seem necessary to enquire who is to furnish the funds.

As to the statement that Mr Chou had been promoted to be Acting Taotai of Yachow, this, it may be stated, is not the case.

Again in the matter of a suitable military force being kept at Chungking and that Li Taotai be kept at Chungking to protect foreigners, it may be stated that some time since the Viceroy of Szechuan telegraphed orders to the Chungking Brigade General to select able bodied men who were to be kept under drill to the end that due protection may be given to foreigners and to preserve order.

Li Taotai of Chungking had been summoned some time ago by the Emperor to come to Peking for audience but a decree was issued and sent by wire ordering him to remain at his post for the present, and look after the missionary cases; hence will not be transferred.

It may be remarked that the wrong character was used in designating Li Taotai's name, the one used being the same sound as the proper one.

The Yamên will, in accordance with the request made, present the foregoing representations to the Emperor and on receiving His Majesty's Edict will duly notify the Minister of the United States.

In a word, the protection of missionaries and their establishments, China regards as a matter of extreme importance; but as to the means to be devised in giving protection the responsibility must still rest with the Chinese Government.

Ark-file

Sep-

3rd. ASST. SECRETARY
SEP 26 1895

Legation of the United States-

Peking, August 14th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
SEP 26 1895
DEPT OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 26 1895

Mr- Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Indosures to Library
April 6/96

Subject

Forwards copy of book entitled "History of the Peace Negotiations".

Sep.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, August 14th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to forward to you by this mail, under separate cover, a copy of a book entitled History of the Peace Negotiations, being an account of the negotiations for peace between China and Japan.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

R

COPIED FOREIGN RELATIONS.

No 2309.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 14, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
SEP 26 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

DIPLOM
SEP 26 1895

✓ Ansd. Sept. 27.

Subject:

The Fukien massacre.

Synopsis:

Encloses communication from Yamen. Consul at Foochow to go to Kutien if he thinks it desirable.

One enclosure.

No 2309.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 14, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

1/309 I have the honor to enclose a translation of a communication received from the Tsungli Yamên relating to the riots in Fukkien.

The Yamên consents that our Consul at Foochow may go to Kutien to investigate the horrible massacre at that place.

I have wired him that if he thought it desirable and necessary he could go, and he could exercise his judgment whether to go alone or with the British Consul.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

List of Inclosures:

1. The Tsungli Yamen to Mr Denby, August 11, 1895.

Enclosure in No. 2309.

The Tsungli Yamen to Mr. Denby.

August 11, 1895.

Your Excellency,

We have had the honor to receive Your Excellency's note wherein you enquire, if you should depute the U. S. Consul at Foochow to proceed to Kutien to investigate the question of the riots there, whether the Chinese Government would render him all due aid and protection. Your Excellency asked for an early answer.

With regard to the riots at Kutien caused by revolutionists, we may state that it was entirely unexpected. Your Excellency proposes to depute the U. S. Consul to proceed thither, and we may say, how can China refuse to protect him? The British Consul proposes to go there for the purpose of holding an investigation and the Yamên telegraphed the Foochow authorities ordering that a military escort be furnished him, but as the rioters are in a state of wrath and fury, it would not be right for the Consul to expose himself to danger.

We have written Sir Nicholas O'Conor to telegraph the British Consul at Foochow to confer with the military officers appointed and to consider the situation before proceeding there.

The circumstances attending the U. S. Consul going to Kut'ien are the same.

The Yamen has telegraphed the Foochow authorities to select a proper military escort to protect the U. S. Consul in going to Kut'ien and beg Your Excellency to telegraph that officer to confer with the military officers appointed as to the condition of affairs and to be careful in proceeding there and not run any risk of danger.

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS. Ack. – File. – Ours 114) answers his question about international commission. AAA

No. 2310.

3rd. ASST. SECRETARY
SEP 26 1895

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 15th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
SEP 26 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Szechuan riot commission

Synopsis

Confirms Department's telegram of the 13th instant. Some observations on the question of commissions and whether they should be organized.

No 2310.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 15th, 1895.

To the Honorable

Richard Olney

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm your telegram of the 13th instant as follows:

"Yesterday's instructions
"referred only to Kucheng
"investigation by two American
"members concurrently with
"British - Szechuan investigation
"may go on as reported in
"your despatch No 2278 unless
"you have grounds to distrust
"the result."

In this connection it seems proper

to review my action with regard to the proposed organization of a commission to go to Chentu and examine into the facts connected with the riots in the province of Szechuan, and to report to me.

After the riots were over the English and American missionaries all left Chentu. The French bishop and all his associates remained. The French Government immediately conferred with the Chinese minister at Paris, and directed the French minister at Peking to organize a commission, composed of the French bishop and several of his associates and three Chinese officials, to sit at Chentu and investigate the causes of the riots and all matters appertaining thereto. This commission was duly organized and has, I believe, completed its labors.

I had no consul nearer Chentu than Hankow and Mr. Child was reported to be sick. On consultation with the British minister, he informed me that he intended to send the British consul at Chungking with an English missionary to Chentu and proposed that I should send an American missionary to assist in the investigation, who should report to me. As all the missionaries resident at Chentu had left, and as I particularly desired an early investigation, I agreed to this plan.

One, if not more, of the Chinese designated by Sir N. R. O'Conor to sit on the commission was a member of the French commission. I reported this matter to you in my despatch No. 2278, of July 1st last.

It must be said that this commission has never been organized. Mr. Fratman, the Consul at Chungking, could not leave his post. His place has not yet been supplied. In fact, nothing has been done.

While matters were in this embryotic state, the American missionaries held a meeting at Shanghai, the 5th July and another the 12th July, at which strong grounds were taken against the proposed commission, and resolutions were adopted, which were forwarded to you, wherein a commission composed of Americans alone was demanded. When these resolutions reached me, I concluded that it would be better to wait until you had passed on the request embodied therein before consummating the arrangement of the joint commission proposed by Her British Majesty's Minister. I accordingly sent to you despatch No. 2293, of July 26th last, from which it will appear that I notified the British Minister that I withdrew from all participation in the proposed commission. I also wired Mr. Watman to the same effect, and I formally withdrew the appointment of Mr. Lewis as a member of that commission. I also informed the Consul General officially to the same effect.

In spite of this action on my part, which I thought was generally known by foreigners in China, public meetings have been held at Shanghai, and at various other places, at which I have been denounced and abused for taking part despatch No. 2278, of July 1st last.

It must be said that this commission has never been organized. Mr. Tratman, the Consul at Chungking, could not leave his post. His place has not yet been supplied. In fact, nothing has been done.

While matters were in this embryotic state, the American missionaries held a meeting at Shanghai, the 5th July and another the 12th July, at which strong grounds were taken against the proposed commission, and resolutions were adopted, which were forwarded to you, wherein a commission composed of Americans alone was demanded. When these resolutions reached me, I concluded that it would be better to wait until you had passed on the request embodied therein before consummating the arrangement of the joint commission proposed by Her British Majesty's Minister. I accordingly sent to you despatch No. 2293, of July 26th last, from which it will appear that I notified the British Minister that I withdrew from all participation in the proposed commission. I also wired Mr. Watman to the same effect, and I formally withdrew the appointment of Mr. Lewis as a member of that commission. I also informed the Consul General officially to the same effect.

In spite of this action on my part, which I thought was generally known by foreigners in China, public meetings have been held at Shanghai, and at various other places, at which I have been denounced and abused for taking part in a commission which is held to be objectionable. The proceedings of these meetings have been forwarded to you and the public press in the United States has, I am told, joined in denunciation of me. As I have regularly reported my official action to you it will be for you to judge whether attacks on me are justifiable.

I will only say that I am staying in Peking now at the risk of my life. Forty thousand persons have died of cholera here in a very short period of time. There are cases in several legations very close to me, and, as soon as I can receive answers to late telegrams, I shall go to the Western Hills, ten miles away, where I can do my business as well as here.

It is not necessary for me to repeat the suggestions made in my despatch No. 2293 further than to say that I still think that an international commission to consider all questions touching the residence of Christians in China is desirable. I realize that there will be great difficulty in procuring the Western Powers to unite in such a commission. I realize, also, that the President may hesitate to join in such a commission. Should an international commission, for any reason, be held not to be feasible, there would remain the question whether a commission composed of Americans alone should be organized.

I await your instructions.

I

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
OCT 9 1895

File

No. 2311.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 15, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
SEP 26 1895
DEPT OF STATE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Ack'd Oct. 10/95

Subject:
Kutien massacre.

Synopsis:
Confirms Department's
telegram.

No 2311.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 15, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the overleaf a copy of the Department's telegram of the 12th instant.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

(over)

Copy

[Telegram received]

Denby, Peking.

Consult with Minister of Great Britain and cooperate so far as conducive to security and welfare of United States citizens. Otherwise you will act and carefully abstain from joining in any course or policy which, however important to British interests, does not concern those of the United States. If not already done, make demands, especially as to punishment of delinquent high provincial officials.

Demand for pecuniary indemnity to be deferred. Appointed Consul at Foochow and a naval officer as the only American members of the Kutien investigating Committee. Request admiral to detail naval member. Most cordial cooperation between yourself, the admiral and the members of the Commission indispensable.

Adee, Acting.

Ark file

3rd. ASST. SECRETARY, SEP 26 1895

File

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU SEP 26 1895

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS

No 2312.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 17, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU REC'D. SEP 26 1895 DEPT OF STATE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:
Kut'ien massacre.

Synopsis:
Important that the real culprits be executed.

No 2312.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 17, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

The British Minister and I have telegraphed to our respective Consuls at Kut'ien as follows:

"It is most important
"that the persons
"arrested and executed
"are the real culprits".

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Ans'd. Sept. 27.

No. 2313.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 19th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
SEP 26 1895
DEPT OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 26 1895

COPIED TO FOREIGN RELATIONS,

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:

Szechuan riots.

Synopsis:

Explains how error arose that minister consented that British Consul should represent American interests.

No. 2313.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 19th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

You have no doubt, ere now, received reports of the proceedings of meetings held by the foreign residents at most of the settlements in China.

Coming on the heels of the Kut'ien massacres it was to be expected that a natural indignation would produce intemperate utterances.

I have already explained to you my connection with the proposed Ch'engtu Commission, and I have shown that I have abandoned all participation therein on or about the 26th ultimo, and that I never consented that Mr Tratman, the acting British Consul at Chungking, should represent American interests.

This announcement was made by the British Consul General at Shanghai, but was erroneous. When I saw that the British Consul General had said that Mr Tratman would represent American interests on the Chi-ëngtu Commission, I immediately enquired of the British Minister how it happened that such an announcement had been made in the face of the fact that I had formally withdrawn from any participation in the Commission more than three weeks before. He immediately and emphatically denied that he had ever instructed the Consul General to make such an announcement, and in proof of his denial he showed me the original telegram sent to Mr Jamieson. That telegram did not in fact contain any statement to the effect that Tratman would represent American interests.

The error on Mr Jameson's part arose, I believe, as follows: The British Minister had a long time befor sent to Mr Jameson a statement of the duties which would devolve on Mr Tratman, and among others that he would represent American interests - that was befor I had withdrawn - and had instructed Mr Jamieson to state in addition to the contents of the telegram what those duties were.

Mr Jamieson, not knowing that I had withdraw, stated that Tratman would represent American interests. The British Minister immediately wired Jamieson to make a public announcement that I had long since withdrawn from the commission.

I was very bitterly criticized for consenting that Americans should have no representation on the commission; a thing I had never consented to.

It thus happened that I was attacked for doing something that I had never done and never dreamt of doing. As I entrusted American interests to a British Consul at Chungking in 1886 without objection from any quarter, the crime of doing so again in 1895 would not have been very heinous, but the Americans seem to think it would be. It is well, therefore, to state the facts as I have done.

I informed Consul General Jernigan under date the 26th ultimo, and later by telegram that I had abandonned all connection with the proposed commission.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

A.K. file

3rd. ASST. SECRETARY
SEP 26 1895

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 26 1895

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
SEP 26 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

No 2314.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 19th, 1895.

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:
Appointments of Weng Tung-ho,
and Li Hung-tsao on the
Tsungli Yamên.

Synopsis:
These appointments are
unfortunate because these
men are anti-foreign.

No. 2314.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 19th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that by a recent Imperial decree Hsü Yung-yi, Vice President of the Board of Civil Office is ordered to resign office in the Tsungli Yamen and the Imperial Council. This gentleman was a noted antagonist of foreign interests, and his degradation is not regretted.

Wêng Tung-ho, tutor to the Emperor, and Li Hung-tsao, tutor to the late Emperor, Tung Chih, are appointed members of the Tsungli Yamên.

These two appointments are not regarded with favor by foreigners.

Wêng Tung-ho has been noted as a reactionist, and has antagonized foreign methods. Li Hung-tsao is believed to entertain the same views. At this time, when owing to the recent riots a wave of anti-foreign sentiment is passing over China, these appointments are unfortunate.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Ack file

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 26 1895

No 23

2d ASST. SECRETARY
SEP 26 1895

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 19th 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
SEP 26 1895
DEPT.

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:

The Kut'ien riots.

Synopsis:

Ten persons dead. Several wounded, including one American lady - all others English - all ladies and children but one, Mr Stewart.

No. 2315.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 19th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I have received from Consul Hixson a report on the horrible massacre of missionaries in the Kut'ien district near Foochow.

The Consul has, no doubt, reported in full to the Department and I will not go into details.

The riot commenced early in the morning of the first instant. There were nine persons killed on the spot; one died soon afterwards from wounds; making ten dead in all.

A wounded child will die; another is in a serious condition; and a young lady will be disfigured for life.

Miss Mabel Hartford, of Portsmouth N.H., connected with the Methodist Episcopal Mission is the only American who was injured. Her actual wounds are not serious, but she is prostrated from the effects of excitement, and her condition is doubtful. All the other victims were British subjects and all ladies and children except Mr Stewart.

The riot, the Consul says, is supposed to have been planned by a secret society called "Vegetarians" who seem to be organizing for a rebellion. The members do not eat meat or drink intoxicants, or smoke opium or tobacco. The movement is, however, said to be really against the Government as that of the Kolaohui is.

The strength of this society in Kut'ien is 10,000 - as is claimed, but the Consul thinks its number is exaggerated because the Government desires to shirk responsibility on the plea of the movement being a rebellion.

The local officials are imbecils.

The Consul has gone to Kut'ien to investigate the causes of the riots. I took the responsibility of advising him to go before I heard from the Department, and was glad to see that your views agreed with mine in all respects as to his mission.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

No. 2316.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, August 21st 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 8 1895
DEPT OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

W. H. Lowdermilk & Co
asked for price
& sample copy of
Slaters Code
11/27/95

B. F. Stevens requests
Dec. 2, '95

Subject

Asks for a Consular cipher code.

Synopsis

A cipher code for telegrams to Consuls in China is a necessity and the present code is worthless.

No. 2316.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, August 21st, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to request that this Legation and the consulates in China be supplied with a cipher code, for the transmission of telegrams. The code now in use by this Legation is a letter code, arranged in five columns. It is entirely defective. Messages sent by it, even with the greatest care, arrive changed and frequently utterly unintelligible.

The necessity for a proper code need not be dwelt upon. Telegrams between this legation and the consulates often contain criticisms of Chinese officials and suggestions for proposed action that it is highly desirable to keep from the knowledge of telegraph operators who are, or may be, compelled to render an account to the Chinese Government.

It is believed that an ordinary commercial word code could be so adapted as to serve every purpose.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

CORRD. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
OCT 9 1895

No 2317.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 21st 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 8 1895
DEPT OF STATE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Ack Oct. 10/95

Subject:

The Kut'ien riots.

Synopsis:

Yamen states the two Consuls gone to Kut'ien - orders for their protection.

One enclosure.

No 2317.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 21st 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose a translation of a communication from the Tsungli Yamen relating to the Kut'ien massacres. The Yamen states that the British and American Consuls started for Kut'ien the 13th instant, that a steam launch and escort had been furnished them, and orders given for their protection; also that the leader of the riots and twenty one men had been captured and would be punished.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

1. The Tsungli Yamen to Mr Denby.

No. 26 August 16th, 1895.

Enclosure in No. 2317.

The Tsungli Yamen to Mr Denby.

No. 26 August 16th, 1895

Your Excellency,

In the matter of the Kut'ien affair, some time ago the Prince and Ministers had the honor to receive a communication from the Minister of the United States stating that he proposed to depute the U. S. Consul at Foochow to proceed to Kut'ien to investigate into the matter of the riots and asked that a military escort be furnished.

The Yamen at the time telegraphed the Viceroy at Foochow, and on the 14th August received a reply from that officer and others to effect that the British and American Consuls on the 13th instant between 3 @ 5 o'clock in the afternoon started for Kut'ien; that a steam launch had been provided for the journey, and Mr Prefect Chu, of the Board of Foreign affairs, and Colonel Chu Pi-cheng with a contingent of soldiers had been deputed to accompany them from Foochow.

Instructions have been issued that the military forces *en route* should ~~b~~ be careful to see that they are escorted in safety.

As to the Yung Fu missionary case, the magistrate has reported that everything is quiet there and no trouble.

During the past few days reports have been received from the civil and military officers at Kut'ien that the leader of the riots, one Hsieh Kuo-sung, had been captured with others - in all 21 men, and rigorous instructions have been issued pressing for speedy action in the premises.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
OCT 8 1895

No 2318.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 22, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

✓ Duplicate sent
Oct 9

Subject:
Acknowledgment of despatches.

issued pressing for speedy action in the premises.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
OCT 8 1895

No 2318.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 22, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 8 1895
DEPT OF STATE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

✓ Duplicate sent
Oct 9

Subject:
Acknowledgment of despatches.

No. 2318.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 22, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches as follows:

No. 1102 of July 12, 1895.
" 1103 " " " "
" 1104 " " " "
" 1105 " " " "
" 1107 " " 16 "

should have gone with the same mail as 1107 (Same date)
but may have been held for enclosure from Navy Dep.

No. 1106 has not been received.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

10

4 Wn

TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
AUG 21 1895

From Peking

Aug 22 1895

Received 9^{35} A.M.

Confirmed Aug 22/95

Olney,

Washington.

Testimonial arrived forwarded Amoy for delivery

Denby

OCT 9 1895

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

No 2319.

Legation of the United States,

Peking, August 22d, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 8 1895
DEPT OF STATE

Mr Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Ackd Oct. 10/95

Subject:

The Kucheng massacre

Synopsis:

An account thereof.

One enclosure.

No 2319.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 22d, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose a clipping from the North China News of Monday the 12th instant containing an account of the Kucheng massacre. 1/319

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby
List

List of Inclosures.

1. Clipping from North China News August 12, 1895.

Newspaper clipping referred to by Mr. Denby in this despatch (No.2319) will be found with type-written copy for Foreign Relations, or in Volume of Foreign Relations for 1895.

No 2320.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, August 24th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 8 1895
DEPT OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
OCT 8 1895

Mr. Charles Denby
to the
Secretary of State

Subject.

Testimonial to Commander Yuan Chin-Kao.

ackd by no 8
file

Synopsis.

Confirms telegram of 22d August, and explains that the testimonial was duly forwarded to U.S. Consul, Amoy through Mr. Consul General Jernigan. Receipt for same will be duly transmitted to the Department as soon as it is received from Amoy.

No 2320.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 24th, 1895.

To the Honorable

Richard Olney,

Secretary of State.

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to confirm my telegram to you of the 22d instant, as follows:—

"Testimonial arrived forwarded to Amoy for delivery"

I may add that the box containing the watch and chain for Commander Yuan Chiu-Kao, was sent to Mr. Consul General Jernigan, on the 25th of June last by Mr. Cheshire, the Interpreter of this Legation, and the receipt of same was duly acknowledged by that gentleman on the 11th of July, who stated that it had been forwarded to Mr. Kemper, our Consul at Amoy, by registered mail; and the receipt for same was in the Consulate General.

The blank enclosed in Department's No 1040, of March 25th, 1895, was duly forwarded to the U.S. Consul, at Amoy, on the 18th June last, but it has not, as yet, been returned to this Legation duly receipted by Commander Yuan Chin Kao. It will be duly transmitted as soon as it is received by me.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
Charles Denby

WR

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
OCT 9 1895

No. 2321.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 24th 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Ack^d Oct. 15/95

Subject:
The Kucheng massacre.

Synopsis:
Requested Yamen to furnish names and rank of Chinese investigators.

Two enclosures.

No. 2321.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 24, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose a copy of your telegram of the 21st instant wherein you direct me to ascertain and report names and rank of Chinese investigators at Kut'ien. In compliance therewith I immediately addressed to the Yamên a communication of which a copy is enclosed.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

1. Copy of Department's telegram
August 21, 1895.

2. Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamen
No 24 August 22, 1895.

Enclosure 1 in No. 2321.

Copy

[Telegram received in cipher]

Denby, Peking.

August 21st.

Ascertain and report names and rank of Chinese investigators at Kut'ien, important they be of highest rank to ensure thorough ventilation of apparent apathy or connivance of elevated functionaries.

Adee, Acting.

Enclosure 2 in No 2321

Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamen.

No 24. August 22, 1895.

Your Imperial Highnesses and Your Excellencies:

I have the honor to state that I have just received a telegram from the Secretary of State, dated the 21st instant, requesting me to ascertain from the Chinese Government and report the names and rank of Chinese officials appointed to investigate into the Kut'ien riots.

It is regarded essential that they be of the highest rank, as the case is one of a most important nature and one that should not be investigated by officials of low rank.

An early answer will oblige so that I may telegraph to my Government.

I have etc, etc, etc,

(Sg'd) Charles Denby.

Publications to Treasury & War Depts Oct 9/1895

Sep.

file

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 24th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU REC'D. OCT 8 1895 DEPT OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU OCT 8 1895

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject.

Forwards Customs Medical Reports.

Sep.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, August 24th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to forward, by this mail, under separate cover, two copies of the Customs Medical Report for the year 1894.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Sep.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 24th, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Send one type-writer.
See Mr. Renicki memo.
So ack.
A.A.A.
OCT 9 1895

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

√ One machine ordered
Oct. 11/95

√ Ack'd Oct 14/95

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
OCT 9 1895

Subject

Asks for type-writing machines.

Sep.

Legation of the United States.
Peking. August 24th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney.
Secretary of State.
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to request that this Legation be furnished with two type-writing machines.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Ack. by Number and File.
COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS aab
OCT 9 1895

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
OCT 9 1895

No 2322.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 24, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 8 1895
DEPT OF STATE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:
The Kucheng massacre.

Synopsis:
Have asked cooperation of authorities; appointment of high official etc.

No. 2322.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 24, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I sent the following telegram to Foochow on the 21st instant:

" Hixson, Foochow.
" Have demanded
" that authorities cooperate
" with you that an
" official be delegated
" for the purpose that
" you

"you be present at
"examination and no
"obstruction offered.
"Denby."

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

CHIEF CLERK,
Received OCT 8 1895
Department of State.

No 2323.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 8 1895
DEPT OF STATE

Legation of the United States.
Peking, August 26th, 1895.

— Mr. Charles Denby —
to the
— Secretary of State. —

— Subject. —

Advising draft drawn favor of R. S. Williams for remaining rent due for first three quarters of fiscal year ended June 30th, 1895.

No 2323.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, August 26th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State.
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

In compliance with the instructions contained in your No 1107. of July 16th ultimo, I have the honor to inform you that I have this day drawn my draft, favor of R. S. Williams Esqre, for $375. being amount due for rent of this Legation premises for first three quarters of fiscal year ended June 30th, 1895.

T. M.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
Charles Denby

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Ack. by Number and File. aaa
OCT 9 1895

No. 2324.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 26, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
OCT 9 1895

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:
The Kut'ien massacre.

Synopsis:
A taotai appointed to cooperate with consuls.

No. 2324.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 26, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the overleaf a copy of my telegram to you of the 24th instant relating to the appointment of Hsinghua Taotai to cooperate with the Consuls at Kutien.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Copy.

[Telegram sent in cipher]

August 24, 1895.

Olney, Washington.

In reply to my demand houhsingi taotai equal rank consul has been sent to cooperate with consuls Kut'ien.

Denby.

ndex & File Copy

Ackd. Aug. 28.

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS

Telegram received in Cipher

Legation of the United States,
Pekin, August 26, 1895.

Olney,
Washington.

In reply to my demand Hsu Hsing I Taotai equal rank consul has been sent to coöperate with consuls Kutien.

Denby.

No. 2325.

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 27th 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 8 1895
DEPT OF STATE

Ack'd Oct. 10, '95

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
OCT 9 1895

Subject:
The Kucheng massacre.

Synopsis:
The Yamen protests against our taking so much interest in the matter; and against sending a commander.

Three enclosures.

No. 2325.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, August 27th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose a translation of a communication from the Tsungli Yamen bearing date the 23d instant; also a translation of a communication of the 24th instant; also a copy of my answer to these communications.

1/325
2/25
3/25

The two papers from the

Yamên relate to the Kucheng riot. They mildly protest against our Government's taking so much interest in the investigation now proceeding at Kucheng. They ask that the order of the Admiral directing a Naval commander to go to Kucheng be rescinded.

I was first made aware that a Naval commander was to go on this mission by these communications. I received later a letter from the Admiral wherein he stated that he had been "directed to appoint a commanding officer as member of a committee to investigate Kucheng affair if requested by the United States Minister to China."

He further said: "as stated in previous communications, the Commanding officer of the "Detroit" has appointed an officer to accompany the Consul."

I have received no intimation from you that you thought it advisable to send an additional officer to Kucheng. I do not think it necessary to send thither a commander. It might delay proceedings as a Chinese official of higher rank than the one already named would have to be selected.

I accordingly wired the Admiral under date the 26th instant as follows:

"Admiral Carpenter,
"   Chefoo.
"If sending commander
"to Kucheng, depends on
"my request must say
"I see no necessity for
"sending another officer.
"Denby."

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.
1.

1. The Tsungli Yamên to Mr Denby.
August 23rd, 1895.

2. The Tsungli Yamen to Mr Denby,
August 24th, 1895.

3. Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamên
August 26th, 1895.

Enclosure 1 in No. 2325.

The Tsungli Yamen to Mr Denby.

August 23d, 1895.

Your Excellency,

We have had the honor to receive Your Excellency's note wherein you state that it is of the highest importance that the Government of China should immediately send a high official to Kut'ien to cooperate with the British and American Consuls in investigating the recent horrible massacre, etc.

It is the opinion of the Yamên, that an officer, or officers, must necessarily be appointed to act conjointly with the Consuls in investigation the Kut'ien case. A telegram has just been received by the Yamên from the Governor General of Fuhkien, stating that an additional appointment had been made, in the person of Mr Hsü Hsing-i, a Taotai by rank, who is to cooperate with the Consuls in dealing with the Kut'ien affair, so that extra care may be taken in the matter. The United States Vice-Consul at Foochow proposes to order a Commander of a United States war vessel to proceed to Kut'ien.

This would not be right and proper so far as the Province of Fukien is concerned.

There was no damage or loss to American property at Kut'ien and only one American received a slight personal injury.

The United States Consul has gone to Kut'ien and he will be able, himself, to perform his duty in good earnest. There is no necessity for a naval commander going there.

We beg that Your Excellency will telegraph at once to the Foochow Consul to order the

naval officer in question not
to go to Kut'ien and do us the
favor to send a reply to this
note which is important.

Enclosure 2 in No. 2325

Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamen

August 24th, 1895.

Your Excellency,

The Prince and Ministers had the honor on the 21st instant, to receive a communication from the Minister of the United States stating that the United States Consul reports from Kutien that the officials obstruct his enquiries, insist on referring to the Viceroy and question his right to be present at the examination of the persons arrested.

The Minister of the United States

asked that telegraphic instructions be sent immediately to the local authorities to facilitate in every manner the enquiries of the American Consul and to inform them that he is to be present at the examination of persons arrested, and he requested further, as he did on the 20th instant, that an official of high rank be deputed to cooperate with and assist the American Consul's enquiries, etc.

On the 22d of August the Prince and Ministers received a further communication from the Minister of the United States, to effect that he had received a telegram from the Secretary of State requesting him to ascertain from the Chinese Government and report the names and rank of the Chinese officials appointed to investigate into the Kut'ien riots, as it was regarded essential that they be of the highest rank, as the case is one of a most important nature and one that should not be investigated by officials of low rank.

The Minister of the United States requested an early answer in order that he might telegraph same to his Government.

In regard to the Kut'ien case, the Prince and Ministers have the honor to state that the Viceroy of Fukkien telegraphed announcing the appointment of Hsü Hsing-i, a Taotai of rank, to hold an investigation into the affair. The said officer is of high rank and will show extra care in the performance of his duty. This appointment was duly made known to the Minister of the United States by note of yesterday.

The Yamên has already addressed Sir Nicholas O'Conor, H.B.M's Minister on the subject of his Consul going to Kut'ien to watch the case.

As no Americans have suffered any loss at Kut'ien, the Minister of the United States is asked to take into consideration the question whether the United States Consul should have gone there to watch the proceedings in the case and to instruct him accordingly.

The Prince and Ministers would beg the Minister of the United States to be good enough to transmit this communication for the information of the Honorable Secretary of State.

Enclosure 3 in No. 2325.

Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamên.

August 26, 1895

Your Highnesses and
Your Excellencies,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your notes of the 23d and 24th instant.

You inform me in the first thereof that Mr Hsü Hsing-i, a Taotai by rank, has been appointed to go to Kucheng to cooperate with the Consuls.

You state that there was slight damage done to Americans at Kucheng. That is happily true, but it was purely accidental that such was the case. My Government has many citizens in China and it is greatly interested in their safety which is of course imperilled by anti-foreign riots.

As to the sending of a naval Commander to Kucheng in addition to the officer already sent I will enquire into the matter.

In your second note you inform me again of the appointment of Hsü Hsing-i on the Kucheng investigating Commission and you say: "As no Americans have suffered any loss at Kut'ien the Minister of the United States is asked to take into consideration the question whether the U.S. Consul should have gone there to watch the proceedings etc."

It is too late to raise this question. An American lady was injured at Kut'ien. The cause of her injuries is a proper subject of investigation by her Government.

TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
OCT 9 1895

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 8 1895
DEPT OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
OCT 9 1895

No. 2326.

aaa Legation of the United States.
Peking, August 27th, 1895.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
The Kutsien commission - confirms telegrams.

No 2326.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, August 27th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm the Department's telegram of the 22nd instant, received here on the 26th, as follows:

"On 13th instant, Consul at
"Foochow telegraphed he was
"starting for Kutien. He was
"instructed by telegraph that,
"if not acting under your orders,
"he was to await your directions
"Nothing since heard from him.
"It is reported that Consul at
"Foochow and naval ensign
went

"went to Kutien of their own
"initiative and not instructed.
"If this be so you will disavow
"their unauthorized action and,
"if not already done, proceed at
"once to designate American commission,
"as directed in my telegram of
"twelfth, notifying Chinese government,
"and demanding escort and free
"access to Chinese investigation.
"Report situation by telegraph."

To this telegram I replied, under this date, as follows:

"Consul had started Kutien,
"under my orders, with the consent
"of Chinese government and with
"escort furnished by them, before
"your cipher telegram twelfth was
"received, taking naval officer with
"him. Consul reports the examination
"proceeding smoothly, officials
actively

"actively cooperating, many "convictions secured."

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

COPIES FOREIGN RELATIONS

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
AUG 28 1895

From Peking,

August 27, 1895.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
AUG 28 1895

Confirmed Aug 30/95

OLNEY,

Washington,

August twenty-seven. Szechuan Commission to proceed as soon as British Consul at Chungking can leave his post which is still impossible. Viceroy Lui is not to be appointed. Commissioner, ~~Best~~ but has been ordered by Imperial decree to stay at his post until conduct investigated.

Denby.

Deciphered J.M.B.

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
AUG 28 1895

From Peking

August 27, 1895.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
AUG 28 1895

Confirmed Aug 30/95

OLNEY,

Washington.

August twenty-seven. Consul had started Kutien, ~~Should you not have had~~ under my # orders with the consent of Chinese Government and with escort furnished by them before. your cipher telegram twelfth was received taking naval officer with him. Consul reports the examination proceeding smoothly. Officials actively cooperating. Many convictions secured.

Denby.

Subject to correction.
Word shiterto undecipherable, Hitherto used but does not make sense. J.M.B.

thitherto

No 2327.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
ck. by Number and File.
aaa
OCT 9 1895

INDEX BUREAU
OCT 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Legation of the United States.
Peking, August 27th, 1895.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
OCT 9 1895

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject.

The Szechuan commission — confirms telegrams.

No 2327.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, August 27th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State.
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm the Department's telegram, of the 24th instant, as follows:

"Department anxiously awaiting "your reply. Report your action "under last telegraph instructions "It is reported Liu, presumably "late Viceroy Szechuan, has been "appointed commissioner. Such "choice highly objectionable. His "report would not inspire "confidence".

To this telegram I replied under

this date as follows:

"Szechuan commission to "proceed as soon as British "consul at Chungking can "leave his post which is still "impossible. Viceroy Liu is "not to be appointed commissioner "but has been ordered by "imperial decree to stay at his "post until conduct investigated."

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
AUG 28 1895

From Peking.

August 28, 1895.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
AUG 28 1895

Confirmed Aug 30/95

OLNEY,

Washington.

August twenty-eighth. Chinese government has refused to degrade and punish Ex-Viceroy Szechuan. Pressure should be used to secure punishment.

Denby.

Deciphered, J.M.B.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
aae
OCT 9 1895

No 2328.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D
OCT 9 1895
DEPT OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
OCT 9 1895

Legation of the United States.
Peking, August 29th, 1895.

— Mr. Charles Denby —
to the
— Secretary of State —

— Subject —
Transfer of high Chinese officials

— Synopsis. —

Enclosing translations of decrees appointing Li Hung-chang Cabinet Minister and Wang Wên-shao Viceroy of Chihli and Minister Superintendent of Trade for the Northern ports.

No. 2328. One enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, August 29th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State.
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose a translation of a Decree which appeared yesterday in the Peking Gazette. 1/328.

Wang Wen-shao is appointed Viceroy of the Province of Chihli and Superintendent of Trade for the Northern ports.

Li is retained at Peking as a cabinet minister for the transaction of official business.

It is not understood that Li

will become a member of the Tsungli Yamên, though that is probable. He remains Grand Secretary of State. Because he has been superceded in the two offices named it is not to be concluded that he has been degraded, or that he has lost his influence. If he is called upon to participate in public affairs he will still be a great power in China.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant
Charles Denby

Enclosure 1.

Translation of Decree as above.

A Decree published in the Peking Gazette, August 28th, 1895.

Let Li Hung-chang, Senior Grand Secretary of State, be kept in Peking, as a cabinet minister in the transaction of official business.

Let Wang Wen-shao, be appointed Viceroy of the province of Chihli and minister superintendent of trade for the Northern ports.

No 2329.

COPIED FOREIGN RELATIONS.

Legation of the United States.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 8 1895
DEPT OF STATE

Peking, August 29th, 1895.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
OCT 9 1895

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State

✓ Ack Oct. 10/95

Subject

The Szechuan riots

Synopsis

Yamên has refused to punish the ex-viceroy. Pressure recommended.

No. 2329.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 29th, 1895.

To the Honorable

Richard Olney,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the overleaf a copy of my telegram of yesterday, relating to the refusal of the Chinese Government to degrade and punish the ex-viceroy of Szechuan.

Before the Szechuan riots took place, this official was ordered to be superseded, but was not technically degraded and there was no prohibition against his applying for another official place. This deprivation of office had no relation to his conduct towards foreigners.

It is the universal opinion among foreigners in China that an example must be made of some high officials, that they must be punished for their negligence or culpability and that public notice must be given that they are punished because thereof. The mere payment of damages, the execution of even a few helpless vagabonds, have no deterrent effect on the masses of the people. They pay no part of the damages and they have no regard for human life.

From the beginning of the discussion of the Szechuan riots, I have, uniformly and many times, demanded that an imperial decree be issued punishing the ex-viceroy Liu, whose culpable negligence and responsibility for the riots are not denied by the Tsungli Yamên. Under the control of

Chêng

Wêng Tung-ho, the Emperor's tutor, the Yamên has become reactionary and less inclined than ever to strictly execute the treaties and imperial edicts so far as they relate to residence in the interior or the protection of foreigners. The British minister has informed me that, two days ago, the Yamên positively refused to punish Liu. Wêng Tung-ho, he complains, treated him in a mocking way and appeared to attach no importance to his demands.

I have again addressed the Yamên on the subject and will transmit the correspondence.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Copy of Telegram.

Olney, Washington, Aug. 28th
The Chinese Government has refused to degrade and punish the ex-viceroy of Szechuan - Pressure should be used to secure his punishment.

Denby

TELEGRAM RECEIVED. Part Cipher

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
AUG 31 1895

Conferred Sept 6.95

From Peking

August 31, 1895

IPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 6 1895

Received ________ M.

Olney
Washington
D.C.

August thirty first. Vice Roy Liu ~~deposed~~ superseded two months ago but ordered to stay at Chengtu. His successor is in charge. British Minister has no (not) decided to send Commission to Chengtu. French Commission proved ex-Vice-Roy's guilt. We have strong affidavits showing his negligence. Yamen does not seriously deny his guilt. I have demanded banishment; that he be declared forever ineligible to office and that his sentence be published with the reason given that he did not protect foreigners. Will demand punishment of other officials; will get the proof taken by the French Commission. English Consul cannot leave Chungking. Proposed commission cannot be organized now. Will you have another? I ask support in demanding Vice Roy's punishment? Affairs at Kutien proceeding well; many convictions. Cannot make out OAP or UTKYEMS in telegram.]

Denby.

No 2330

Legation of the United States.
Peking, August 31st 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 21 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Ansd. Oct. 23,

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
OCT

Subject

Right of missionaries to reside in interior.

Synopsis

Translation enclosed of a communication from the Yamên indicating a desire to raise the question. Mr. Denby's reply enclosed.

Two enclosures.

No 2330

Legation of the United States.
Peking, August 31st 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose a
1/2330 translation of a communication from the Tsungli Yamên, relating to the right of missionaries to reside in the
2/2330 interior of China, also a copy of my answer thereto.

The Yamên states that it has received a copy of my despatch to the Department No 221, of October 9th 1886, [Foreign Relations, 1886, p. 96] that it has procured certain passages therein to be translated into Chinese, and it desires to know whether any mistakes have occurred in the translation.

It would seem that the recent amendment to the Berthemy Convention, which, in the most unrestricted manner, permits foreign residence and the purchase of land in the interior, would have rendered the raising of this question again impossible.

That the views expressed by me in the despatch cited coincided with those of the Department will be seen by reference to the Department's despatch No. 119, of November 27th, 1886, approving my despatch cited; by Mr. Holcombe's despatch No. 99, of May 6th, 1882 [Foreign Relations, 1882, p. 137], wherein the subject is elaborately treated; and Mr. Frelinghuysen's despatch to Mr. Young No. 17, July 3rd, 1882 [Foreign Relations 1882, p. 142] giving to Mr. Holcombe's despatch "the unqualified approval of the Department".

Mr. Holcombe states [p. 140 Foreign Relations 1882] that "the privilege "of temporary residence (in the interior) "would not justify any assertion of "the right to rent or purchase premises "for permanent occupation".

Hitherto the question of the right of missionaries to reside in the interior has not been raised. I have always assumed that the general acquiescence by China in the actual residence of missionaries in the interior estopped her from raising the question in cases in which damages were claimed for injuries done to them or their property.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosures:

1. The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby, Aug. 27. 1895.

2. Mr. Denby to the Tsungli Yamên Aug. 30. 1895.

Enclosure 1 in No 2330

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby.

Note. Aug. 27. 1895.

Your Excellency:

We have the honor to inform Your Excellency that the Minister Superintendent of Trade for the southern ports has sent to the Yamên a copy of the Foreign Relations of the United States, in which appears a despatch addressed by Your Excellency to the Honorable Secretary of State, dated Peking, October 9th, 1886, in which you state that in the Chinese text of the French treaty it says "It is "in addition permitted to French "missionaries to rent and purchase "land in all the provinces and to "erect buildings thereon at pleasure". Your Excellency further states that "no such words are contained in "the French text. There are no "similar words, no language, which

"by any construction can seem to
"have been made the basis of
"the actual translation from French
"to Chinese"; that American
"missionaries have often cited
"this clause but my predecessors
"have very generally construed
"this clause differently"; that "it
"must be assumed, therefore, on
"the construction placed by all
"the nationalities on the treaty
"in question, that the right to
"settle in the interior does not
"exist. The United States
"Government have not been
"persistent about wishing
"missionaries to locate in the
"interior, but if the local
"authorities assent to such
"location, allow them to buy
"land and erect buildings, the
"United States would not submit
"to their not being protected.
"If foreigners are injured the
"foreign powers could not

"disregard and show no
"consideration for them. If the
"local authorities object to
"missionaries settling in the
"interior- then the only thing
"to do is to act as provided by
"treaty; they should not be
"expelled by violence. There is
"one thing that makes it very
"inconvenient for foreigners to
"live in the interior and that
"is he is not amenable to any
"court but his own, only to his
"own laws". "Foreigners are
"by no means perfect in their
"conduct in China any more
"than they are at home. It is
"entirely impracticable to create
"such a tribunal at every locality
"in China"- The only other remedy
is to restrict foreigners in their
residence to such localities as may
furnish the necessary tribunals. It
is on principle only defensible
because it is a necessary part of

selfdefense.

Your Excellency further states that "I do not make this suggestion "with any purpose of criticising "unfavorably the relation and "do not recommend any "modification of this condition "as far as China is concerned." "The missionary is simply a "citizen and the sacred "character of his object and "purposes does not enter into "the determination of his rights".

We have duly perused the above communication and can well perceive that Your Excellency's arguments are based upon that which is right and just, for which we hold the highest respect. We shall feel obliged by Your Excellency's pointing out to us any mistakes there may be in the Translation from English into Chinese.

Enclosure 2 in No. 2330

Mr. Denby to the Tsungli Yamên.

~~No.~~ August 30th 1895.

Your Highness and
Your Excellencies:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 27th instant.

You therein refer to a despatch transmitted by me to my government the 9th day of October 1886. You set forth translations of certain extracts therefrom and you say that you "shall feel obliged by Your Excellency "(myself) pointing out to us any "mistakes there may be in the "translation from English into Chinese".

I beg to observe that that labor can be performed by any person who is well acquainted with Chinese and English, and it seems unnecessary for me to undertake it.

The despatch from which you

quote was written for and sent to my Government for its information and for it I am responsible only to my Government.

It is a well known rule that a written instrument must be construed in its entirety. Its true significance and meaning can only be ascertained by considering the whole of it.

It would serve no good purpose now to discuss views which were presented to my Government nearly nine years ago. Since that time the Government of China has, in the most emphatic manner, recognized the right of missionaries to go anywhere in the interior, to buy land and reside on it. The recent amendment made to the Berthemy Convention has settled this question. To open it again would be reactionary.

I have etc,

(Sig'd) Charles Denby.

No. 233[illegible]

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
OCT 22 1895

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
aaa
OCT 22 1895

Legation of the United States,
Peking, September 2, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT [illegible] 1895

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:

The assault on Dr Sheffield.

Synopsis:

Stringent and severe action demanded against his assailants.

One enclosure.

No. 2331

Legation of the United States,
Peking, September 2, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In my despatch No. 2281 of July 8th, 1895 I brought to your attention the case of the recent murderous assault on Dr. D. Z. Sheffield at Tungcho.

I have addressed the Yamên several times on the subject.

There seems to be an

intimation in official quarters to deal leniently with the criminals. I have, therefore, felt constrained to send to the Yamên a communication of which a copy is enclosed, wherein I demand stringent and severe action.

1/2231

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

1. Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamen September 2, 1895.

Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamen.

September 2, 1895.

Your Highnesses and
Your Excellencies.

I am constrained to call your attention again to the case of the recent murderous assault on the Rev D. Z. Sheffield. I desire to state that it is needless for the Tungcho Taotai to solicit from the injured person his views as to what punishment should be inflicted on the guilty parties. He has nothing to do with that question, the matter being left to the criminal Administration of the Government of China with the expectation on my part that the severest possible punishment that the law will justify shall be inflicted.

The case is one of peculiar and horrible atrocity.

An atrocious assault was made upon a defenseless man by two ruffians who left him for dead as they believed. His life was saved only by the utmost care and surgical treatment and nursing, but his right hand is permanently disabled and he is likely to lose the use of his right eye.

Such crimes should be punished with the death penalty.

As it seems that Chinese law does not award such a punishment, then the criminals should be sentenced to perpetual imprisonment and they should never be released.

The chief criminal - the Elder Tsao - cannot plead insanity as a defense.

In the history of insanity no insane person ever had an accomplice.

Tsao had one - his brother -

and endeavored to force another brother to join him in his crime.

Isao had received nothing but kind treatment from Dr Sheffield, but he had behaved very badly and he feared that on account of his evil conduct he would not again be employed by the foreigners and so he sought revenge for an anticipated discharge from work. There is no pretense that the other criminal was insane. He was a principal in the horrible crime and he merits and should receive the heaviest punishment that the law allows.

These men should never have been kept at Tungcho. They should have been removed to Peking for imprisonment - as I always understood they had been until a few days ago. They should now be immediately brought to Peking and closely imprisoned.

Tsao is reported to threaten to commit other injuries on foreigners as soon as he can get a chance.

I cannot understand why in so plain a case such consideration is shown to atrocious criminals and why they are not tried and punished.

To my knowledge no trouble has ever arisen with foreigners at Tungcho, but if this case is not severely treated I shall expect riot and murder almost under the walls of the Imperial palace.

File No. 2332.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
OCT 22 1895

3rd. ASST. SECRETARY
OCT 22 1895

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 21 1895
DEPT OF STATE

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 2d, 1895.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
Confirms telegrams.

No. 2332

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 2d, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm your telegram of the 30th ultimo, as follows:

"Is viceroy vap discharging "duties in an utkycmyi or "awaiting there investigation "committee? Should he be acting "as viceroy pending arrival of "successor? It is proper, in view "of the very serious charges against "him, that he should at once be "relieved of all viceregal functions. "Cannot ask punishment until "ascertainment offence".

I confirm also my telegram of the 31st ultimo as follows:

"Viceroy Liu superseded two
"months ago but ordered to stay
"at Chengtu - His successor is in
"charge. British minister has not
"decided to send commission to
"Chengtu. French commission proved
"ex-viceroy's guilt. We have strong
"affidavits showing his negligence
"Yamên does not seriously deny
"his guilt - I have demanded
"banishment, that he be declared
"forever ineligible to office and
"that his sentence be published
"with the reason given that he did
"not protect foreigners. Will demand
"punishment of other officials. Will
"get the proof taken by the French
"commission. English consul cannot
leave

"leave Chungking. Proposed
"commission cannot be organized
"now. Will you have another?
"I ask support in demanding
"viceroy's punishment. Affairs at
"Kutien proceeding well. Many
"convictions. Cannot make out
"*vap* or *utkycmyi* in telegram".

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

Charles Denby

No. 2333.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 3d, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 21 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Ack'd Oct. 22

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
OCT 22 1895

Subject

The Szechuan riots

Synopsis

Punishment of ex-viceroy Liu and subordinate officials insisted on.

No 2333.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 3d, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State.
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In addition to the matter wired in my telegram of the 31st ultimo, which was confirmed in my despatch No 2332, of the 2d instant, I desire to make a few observations on the proposition that the delinquent local officials in the province of Szechuan should be severely punished and that as soon as possible.

The ex-viceroy Liu was superseded, before any riot took place, for causes not affecting foreigners. His successor arrived at Chengtu two months or more ago. Liu started for his home. At the urgent instance of the British minister and myself, he was stopped en route and ordered to return to Chengtu to await the result of the pending investigation. As very conclusively showing his guilt, there were found in his possession missals, books, vases and other things which had been stolen from the catholic church and even from its altar.

Liu has, and has had, since his return to Chengtu, nothing to do with public affairs.

As to the proof that this man and several of his subordinates are guilty of culpable negligenze, or even direct connivance in the matter of the riots, there is abundance of it. The French commission has concluded its labors and the proof of guilt is complete.

The sum of Taels 700.000 has been agreed on as the French indemnity, but I understand that it will not be accepted until the guilty officials have been punished. The British minister and I also have affidavits. It is to be regretted that we have not the report of the official commission as a basis for action. For the British minister and myself it has been found impracticable to have such a commission. As you have been informed, such a commission was proposed but the acting British consul at Chungking — who was to have been the head of the commission — found himself unable to leave Chungking, because he greatly feared that if he did so there would be an anti-foreign riot at that city. I had no official at Chungking. The French were more fortunate. They had two bishops and many members of the clergy in Szechuan and these persons had remained at their posts, whereas the English and Americans had left.

Distances and difficulty of access must also be taken into account. Chungking is fourteen hundred miles above the mouth of the Yangtze. It is about six hundred miles from Chengtu. It is four hundred and thirty four miles above Ichang which is the head of steam navigation. I have been frequently told that it takes sixty usually days to ascend the Yangtze from Ichang to Chungking.

I have continuously hoped that the British minister would see his way to send a commission to Chengtu, but I now incline to the opinion that he has abandonned the idea of doing so.

I have fully, in several despatches, discussed the question of having a commission and I await your orders on the subject. But, whether a commission be organized or not, I regard it as of the greatest importance that the guilty officials should be punished as soon as possible. Their degradation, banishment, imprisonment, whatever the penalty be, should be published in the Peking Gazette, and there should be assigned in the announcement that the reason why the punishment is inflicted is that the officials have been guilty of culpable negligence, at least, in failing to do their duty in protecting foreigners.

I have understood that an appeal has been made to you by the Chinese Government to order me to discontinue pressing the government to punish the guilty officials. It is plain to me that the first step to take in the treatment of questions growing out of anti-foreign riots is to make an example of the local officials. That such action would greatly tend to the prevention of riots is universally believed by foreigners in China.

What should be done if China were to refuse this simple satisfaction need not now be considered.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

No. 2334

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

Legation of the United States,

Peking, September 3, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 21 1895
DEPT OF STATE

Mr Denby to the

Secretary of State.

✓ Answ'd Oct 23.

Subject:

The Kut'ien massacre.

Synopsis:

Minister asks Yamen to allow decisions of commission to be final.

One enclosure.

No. 2334.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, September 3, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

1/334 I have the honor to enclose a copy of a communication sent by me to the Tsungli Yamen the 30th ultimo relating to the investigation now proceeding at Kut'ien.

The British and American Consuls thought it advisable that the decisions arrived at by the commission should be held to be final and not subject to revision by the Viceroy.

It is usual in China to transmit to the Viceroy of the Province the judgments of all tribunals which involve the death punishment, but there are exceptions to this rule, especially in riot cases.

As the Consuls are on the ground and understand the conditions better than I do I thought it advisable to accede to their request. It will be noticed that I do not make a strenuous demand in the matter but confine myself to a simple request.

I learn from telegrams from Consul Hixson that matters are proceeding satisfactorily at

Kut'ien I have not thought it necessary to wire you each day on the subject.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamen,
August 30th, 1895.

Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamen.

August 30th, 1895.

Your Highnesses and
Your Excellencies,

I have the honor to inform you that representations have been made to me by the Consul of the United States at Kucheng that the Chinese official in charge of the investigation which is now proceeding at that place has very limited powers and is required to refer every important point to the Viceroy.

The Consul suggests that the effect of the investigation would be much greater if the Viceroy were not allowed to dictate or revise in any way the decisions of the Kut'ien investigating officials which are approved by the Consuls, and that details as to conviction and execution should be fixed and carried out regardless of any action by the Viceroy.

I am informed that in exceptional cases, such as riots, such power of ultimate decision may be conferred on an investigating tribunal, and I respectfully ask that this may be done in this case.

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

No. 2335.

3rd. ASST. SECRETARY, OCT [illegible] 1895

Legation of the United States,

Peking, September 5, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU REC'D. OCT 21 1895 DEPT. OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU. OCT 22 1895

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Ackd. ✓ Oct. 23.

Subject:

The Szechuan riots.

Synopsis:

Minister demands punishment of Ex-Viceroy Liu.

One enclosure.

No. 2335

Legation of the United States,
Peking, September 5th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

1/2335

I have the honor to enclose a copy of a communication which was sent by me to the Tsungli Yamên the 28th ultimo, relating to the punishment of the Ex-Viceroy Liu.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

1. Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamên,

No. 26. August 28, 1895.

Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamên

No 26 August 28th, 1895.

Your Highnesses and
Your Excellencies,

I am constrained to call your attention to the circumstance that I have been recently informed that you have refused to consider the question of punishing high officials who have failed in their duty to protect foreigners at Ch'eng-tu — particularly the late Viceroy Liu.

This question does not admit of argument.

Anti-foreign riots will never cease in China unless an example is made which will show to the people in China as well as to the Western world that the Government of China is in earnest in its desire to comply with its Treaty obligations.

I have, therefore, formally to demand that the late Viceroy be punished and I suggest that he be punished in the following manner: 1st that he be degraded and forever prohibited from holding public office again; 2d that he be banished; 3d that official notification of his punishment be published in the Peking Gazette and that the reasons for inflicting it be stated

I

I would be pleased to have an early answer to this communication informing me of the action that you intend to take in this important matter.

F. M.

~~No. 2336~~

3d. ASST. SECRETARY
OCT 22 1895

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
OCT 22 1895

Legation of the United States,
Peking, September 5th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 21 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:
The Berthemy Convention.

Synopsis:
Have informed American missionaries that I will take advantage of it.

No. 2336

Legation of the United States,
Peking, September 5th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In further acknowledgment of your despatch No. 1109 of July 18th last, I have the honor to inform you, that I have taken measures to inform the American missionaries, through the Consuls, that when occasion arises in cases of purchases of real property by them, I propose to take advantage of the provision of the "Berthemy Convention" as recently amended, which dispenses with the necessity of securing the prior authorization of the local authorities; and that I will claim this privilege, not only in behalf of any reputable American missionary organization, but also in behalf of any American citizens engaged in mission work.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

No. 2337. Ack by No. - File

3rd. ASST. SECRETARY
OCT 22 1895

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
OCT 28 1895

Legation of the United States,
Peking, September 5, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 21 1895
DEPT OF STATE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:
Anti-foreign riots.

Synopsis:
Dangerous condition in China.
Reprisals suggested again.
Punishment of officials to be insisted on.

No. 2337.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, September 5th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

It is known to you that great excitement has prevailed at the Treaty ports in China on account of the recent anti-foreign riots. Indignation meetings have been held at all the ports. The people at these meetings deal in generalities. In the general public sentiment demands blood-letting and warlike measures.

I still think that the action heretofore recommended by me would be proper; that is to say: that China should be notified by the Western powers that if a riot occurred at any place at which a ship-of-war was then stationed, such place would be instantly bombarded. If no ship were at the locality it would be bombarded as soon as one would reach the same of the disorder.

At points not accessible to ships the question of reprisals becomes more difficult. On account of a riot occurring in the interior the nearest seaport might be bombarded.

China is in a very dangerous condition. Riots are imminent everywhere. There is a general spirit of unrest among the people and great discontent against the Government. The people know vaguely that there has been a foreign war and that China has got the worst of it. They know also that the foreign powers did not intervene to assist China, and they hold all foreigners responsible. It looks as if a wave of anti-foreign feeling were passing all over the Empire.

At Peking the foreigners are held responsible for the cholera. The gods are denounced for not causing more foreigners to die of cholera. It is reported here that recently a Chinese idol was taken into a Catholic church not far from the Legation and it was demanded that the cholera should attack foreigners. It is also reported that the head man in this incipient riot was taken at the time he was in the church with cholera and died in two hours.

I cite these facts as tending to show the absolute necessity for energetic action on the part of the Western Powers.

The main important point now is to secure the punishment of the Ex-Viceroy of Szechuan and some of his subordinates for their negligent or culpable conduct at Chentu, and to proclaim by Imperial decree that they were punished because they failed to do their duty in protecting foreigners.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

3rd. ASST. SECRETARY
OCT 22 1895

File

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
OCT 22 1895

No. 2338

Legation of the United States,
Peking, September 6th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 21 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:
Acknowledgment of despatches.

No. 2338

Legation of the United States,
Peking, September 6th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches as follows:

No. 1106 of July 16th, 1895.
" 1108 " " 17th "
" 1109 " " 18th "
" 1110 " " 19th "
" 1111 " " " "
" 1112 " " " "

No. 1113 of July 19th, 1895.

No. 1107 was received by previous mail.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

No. 2339 File

3rd. ASST. SECRETARY, OCT 22 1895

Legation of the United States,

Peking, September 6th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU REC'D. OCT 21 1895 DEPT OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU OCT 22 1895

Mr Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject:

Confirms telegram.

No. 2339

Legation of the United States,
Peking, September 6th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the overleaf a copy of your telegram of the 4th instant which was received by me the 5th instant at 12 M.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Copy.

[Telegram received in cipher.]

Denby, Peking. September fourth.

Your unsatisfied demand for degradation of Viceroy Szechuan and delay in British Chengtu investigation makes independent investigation necessary. Cannot act peremptorily on reports of commissions to which we are not party. Organize at once an American commission Consul at Tientsin, Missionary and Naval officer with Chinese officer of suitable rank. Should go over-land from Tientsin via Tungkuan and Hanchung in less than thirty days. Notify Chinese Government and ask ample escort if deposed Viceroy's residence Chengtu likely to obstruct investigation demand that he is ordered elsewhere. Under complete suspension pending ulterior demands.

Adee, Acting.

File

3rd. ASST. SECRETARY
OCT 22 1895

No. 2340.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
OCT 22 1895

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 6th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 21 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

The Chengtu Commission

Synopsis

Confirms Department's telegram of 5th instant.

No. 2340.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, September 6th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Department's cipher telegram of the 5th instant as follows:

"Secretary of the Navy authorizes
"Barber, Naval Attaché to Japan,
"on Chengtu commission - Appoint".

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

A.K. F.h.

No. 2347

2D ASST. SECRETARY. OCT 22 1895

Ackd by subject. Nov 18.

DIPLO[illegible] BU[illegible] NOV 16 1895

Legation of the United States,

INDEX BUREAU REC'D. OCT 21 1895 DEPT. OF S[illegible]

Peking, September 7th, 1895.

Mr Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject:

The Szechuan riots.

Synopsis:

Encloses list of American missionaries in Szechuan during the riots.

One enclosure.

6

No. 2341

Legation of the United States,
Peking, September 7th 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

1/41 I have the honor to enclose a copy of a despatch from the Consul at Hankow giving a list of the American missionaries who were in Szechuan during the riots.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

1. Mr Child to Mr Denby

No. 75 August 26th, 1895.

Copy.

Hankow, China,
August 26th, 1895.

H. E. Chas Denby,
U. S. Minister,
Peking.

Sir:

I have the honor to send you as requested the following particulars

The missionaries stationed at the American Baptist Mission Axel Salquist, the American Methodist Episcopal Mission Mr and Mrs Lewis, Dr J. H. McCartney, Mr and Mrs Manley, Mr and Mrs Myers, Mr and Mrs Curnan at Chengtu American Methodist Episcopal Mission Mr and

Mrs Cartwright, Mr and Mrs Peat, Mr and Mrs Cady and Mr and Mrs Stevenson.

At Sui-fu Baptist Mission Mr and Mrs Warner, Mr and Mrs Finch, Mr and Mrs Wellwood, Dr Malcolm, Miss Forbes and Miss Gardelin.

At Kia-ting Baptist Mission Mr and Mrs Wicking, Miss Bliss and Miss Inveen.

At Ya-chow Baptist Mission Mr Upcraft, Mr and Mrs Hill, and Mr Opanshaw.

At Sui-fu four children

At Kia-ting one

At Chentu not known

The above list very likely is not complete.

Chungking is distant from Chengtu 900 li. Ya-chow distant from Cheng-tu the capital 330 li. S.W. Kia-ting 390 li S. Siu-fu 650 li S.E.

There is a work published by Kelly & Walsh Shanghai "Inland Communication in China" which contains maps, plans, modes of conveyance, and charges for same if consulted will give you full information. This work is edited by N. C. Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

(Sg'd)

(Sig'd) Jacob T. Child Jr
Acting Vice Consul in charge

Chinese names of following places

Chung-king 重慶府
Chen-tu 城都
Hsüchou Siu-fu 叙州府 vulgo Sui fu
Kia-ting 嘉定府
Ya-chow 雅州府

Dip

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

Ack'd Sept. 13.

From Peking

Sept. 8, 1895.

Rec'd Sept 8. 9^30 P.m.

Olney,
Washington

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 9 1895

September 8. I have to suggest that Cheng tu Commission proceed without Chinese cooperation. China ~~tolerate~~ will probably interpose no active opposition. We cannot well recede now. Recommend Gilbert Reid — commissionary He must have compensation suggest two hundred gold coin per month let Commission take proof wherever it can find witnesses

Denby.

H

3rd. ASST. SECRETARY.
OCT 22 1895

File
No. 2342

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 21 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 9th, 1895.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
OCT 22 1895

Subject

Szechuan Commission - confirms telegram

No. 2342.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 9th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney.
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm my cipher telegram to you, of the 8th instant, as follows:

"I have to suggest that Chengtu "Commission proceed without "Chinese cooperation. China will "probably interpose no active "opposition. We cannot recede now "Recommend Gilbert Reid missionary "We must have compensation. Suggest "two hundred gold coin per month. "Let commission take proof wherever "it can find witnesses".

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

No. 2343

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, September 9th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 21 1895
DEP[illegible]TE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
OCT 22 1895

✓ Ack'd.
Oct. 25

Subject:
The Chengtu commission.

Synopsis:
Yamen refuses to cooperate.
Interview reported.

One enclosure.

No. 2343

Legation of the United States,
Peking, September 9th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that on the receipt of your telegram of the 4th instant in which you direct me to organize a commission to go to Chentu, I addressed to the Yamen a communication of which a copy is enclosed.

1
343

At the same time I notified the Prince and Ministers that I desired to call on them Saturday the 7th instant at three o'clock and asked them to receive me.

At that time I went to the Yamen. Woong Tung-ho, Chang Yin-huan, Wong Feng-tsao were present.

I commenced the conversation by informing them that I was directed to organize an American commission to proceed to Chentu to investigate the recent riots, that the commission would be composed of the Consul at Tientsin, Commander Barber, Naval Attaché, and a missionary who was not yet named.

I expressed the desire that a high official should be appointed to accompany the commission and sit with it, and that an escort should be furnished.

I stated that the commission would go overland from Tientsin. They asked why we wanted such a commission; said it was too late; would be of no use; that they had the facts; that the people would be alarmed; that Americans had been slightly injured; that England would ask for a commission; that they would do justice; that there was no precedent for such a commission, it would do no good, the missionaries could give me affidavits, was it to increase the indemnity or what was it for?

I answered all these queries. I said my Government wanted the facts; that twenty five Americans had been hunted like rats; had been exposed to great danger; had had three houses burnt down; had been compelled to fly and that no doubt that the health of several of them would be ruined for life; we wanted to know who did these things and who was responsible, and when the guilty parties were discovered we wanted them punished; that the commission would inflict no punishment itself but leave that to China, demanding, however, a stringent punishment; that it was not too late to take the proof; that the French had had a commission set in Chentu

an

and we had the right to have one; that the sitting of the commission would tend to pacify the people; that they had agreed some months ago that there might be a joint English and American commission; that public sentiment in America and Europe was greatly excited; that the proposed measure - if China heartily cooperated - would quiet the excitement; that some thing must be done to stop riots; that China gave passports to foreigners guarantying protection; that an example must be made of the officials; that affidavits were not equivalent to proof taken by a commission; that my Government wanted positive proof on which to base its demands; that we had no idea about increasing the indemnity, our only object was to secure protection and make further riots impossible; that the Margary case was a precedent for the proposed commission and the Kutien investigation now going on was another; that it would be greatly to the interest of China to encourage in every way the commission, and to give it dignity and consideration.

The matter was argued with considerable vivacity for more than two hours. I demanded many times a definite answer either then or in writing the next day. They would do neither. They would not answer me at all, but went on repeating the same objections again, every now and then appealing to the good relations between the two countries, and begging me to use my influence to induce you to withdraw the proposition. I positively refused to do anything of the kind and insisted on some answer.

Finally when further argument seemed useless I wrote on a slip of paper the following telegram:

"Olney, Washington.
"September seventh. China
" refuses to cooperate with
" American commission to
" Chentu or to assist it
" in any way.
"Denby."

I had this telegram translated to them and said that I would send it to you if they allowed me to leave without either answering my demand or promising to send me a written answer tomorrow. This was repeated to them several times. They still refused any answer - so I sent the telegram. I suppose they have ere this wired to their Minister at Washington.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamen

No 27 September 6th, 1895.

Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamen.

No 27 September 6th 1895.

Your Highnesses and
Your Excellencies,

I have the honor to inform you that I have been ordered by my Government to organize immediately a commission consisting of Mr Sheridan P. Read, United States Consul at Tientsin, a naval officer of the United States and an American missionary, to proceed to Chentu and there investigate the causes and other matters connected with the recent anti-foreign riots in the province of Szechuan. I am also directed to ask Your Highnesses and Your Excellencies to appoint an official of suitable rank to accompany this commission and set as a member thereof. It is my opinion that it is desirable that an official be sent from Peking. I am also directed to request you to furnish for this commission an ample escort, and to direct the officials in Szechuan to afford it every facility for the discharge of its important duties.

I should be much pleased to have an early and full answer to the matters herein stated.

No. 2344

3rd. ASST. SECRETARY
OCT 29 1895

Legation of the United States,
Peking, September 11th 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 21 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
OCT 29 1895

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

✓ Ansd. Oct. 30.

Subject:
The assault on Dr. Sheffield.

Synopsis:
Encloses copy of Yamen's explanation of action taken.

One enclosure.

6 No 2344

Legation of the United States,
Peking, September 11th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In my despatch No 2331 of September 2d I enclosed a copy of a communication to the Tsungli Yamên relating to the assault on Doctor Sheffield.

1/2344 I now enclose a translation of the Yamên's reply thereto.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.
The Tsungli Yamên to Mr Denby,
September 6th, 1895.

The Tsungli Yamen to Mr. Denby.

September 6th, 1895.

Your Excellency,

Some time ago we had the honor to receive Your Excellency's note in regard to the assault made on Dr. Sheffield at Tungcho wherein you stated that you had not as yet heard as to what disposition had been made of the assasins.

The Yamên at the time sent instructions to the Taotai of Tungcho to lose no time in deciding the case. A report has now been received from the Taotai that the prisioners had been brought up for examination and were sent to the Yamên of the Chih chou and there placed under rigorous confinement. It was decided to wait and see if Dr Sheffield recovered or not, and then to take up the case, hold a further examination, and decide the punishment to be inflicted on the prisoners.

On account of Dr Sheffield not having recovered, he could not be summoned to court and a further examination take place. Hence the case still remains undecided.

Having received Your Excellency's note, we at once sent instructions to investigate carefully, as to where the two assassins were, and it appears that they were both confined in in prison behind bars and are under strict guard. How is it, therefore, possible that they should have had liberty. Under the law their relations are not allowed to enter their prison and visit them. Further nothing was ever said that the two prisoners had been sent to Peking for imprisonment.

The Taotai went in person and saw Dr Sheffield, and found that he had recovered from his wounds.

Considering that the limited period by law as to the crime being punished by death, having expired, it is right that the prisoners be re-examined and a decision rendered.

In considering the circumstances of the case, it appears that the prisoners were very malicious villians, and the wounds they inflicted on Dr Sheffield were severe and many. The crime committed should be dealt with according to statute. But Dr Sheffield stated that Ts'ao Ta was a lunatic, and that the present case arose by one, Han Ta, a mason, jesting with Ts'ao Ta, who got a hatchet and was about to assault Han Ta, but no trouble arose.

Afterwards Ts'ao ta heard some say falsely that Han ta had returned to Tung chou, whereupon Ts'ao ta followed. On the 7th of July he met Dr Sheffield on a road and assaulted him.

From the evidence of the men, it appears that Ts'ao ta started first with a file in search of Dr Sheffield. Ts'ao erh had gone to the Tung kuan to get some things to take home; when he got there he found that Ts'ao ta had gone out, and fearing that there would be trouble, he, with hatchet in hand, hastened and helped his brother in the assault.

Thus there was no plan made beforehand by the two brothers to murder Dr. Sheffield, and it would therefor seem that there should be a difference in the degree of punishment inflicted on the men.

But as the case has not, as yet, been tried, it is difficult to pronounce judgment on the men. The Taotai has issued instuctions urging the Chih chou to hasten a reexamination of the case, in a thorough manner; to send copies of the evidence for his consideration and decision which is to be referred to the higher authorities for final action.

Awaiting the trial by the Chih chou and his report thereon, for consideration and action in the premises, the Taotai presents the above report for the Yamên's information.

We would state that the Taotai, it would seem, has made a true representation of the various details of the case.

It appears that a feud arose between the villians Ts'ao ta and others but nothing came of it. The wicked conduct of the assassins is detestable.

Though the weapons used by Ts'ao tai and Ts'ao erh were a hatchet and file and not the same as weapons used for committing murder, still Dr. Sheffield received serious wounds and many of them. It is right that, according to law, this crime should be properly considered and judgement rendered against them, not the least partiality or favor, on any account is to be shown.

We send this note embodying the above report for Your Excellency's information.

SP

(52)

Confirm

TELEGRAM RECEIVED. Cipher

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
SEP 7 1895

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 7 1895

From Peking
September 7, 1895.

Olney
Washington

Received ______ M.

Confirmed Sept 9.95

September Seventh. China refuses to cooperate with American Commission to Chengtu or to assist it in any way.

Denby

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
SEP 12 1895

From Peking

Sept 12 1895

Conformed Sept 19. 95

Recd 8^{45} a.m.

Olney
Washington

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU,
SEP 18 1895

Sept 12 Yamen ask that Szechuan business be arranged by joint consultation with British at Chung King.

Denby

No. 2345. File

3rd. ASST. SEC'Y.
OCT 22 1895

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 12th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 21 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
OCT 22 1895

Subject

Szechuan commission – confirms telegram.

No. 2345.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 12th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm my telegram of this date, as follows:

"Yamên asks that Szechuan
"business be arranged by joint
"consultation with British at
"Chungking."

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Ak. Fu

3rd. ASST. SECRETARY
OCT 22 1895

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

No 2346

Legation of the United States,
Peking, September 12, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 21 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
OCT 22 1895

Ack'd. Oct. 25.

Subject:
The Chentu commission.

Synopsis:
Yamên asks that the proposed joint commission be proceeded with.

One enclosure.

No. 2346

Legation of the United States,
Peking, September 12, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In my despatch No. 2343 of September 9th I enclosed a copy of my despatch to the Tsungli Yamen in which I informed the Prince and Ministers of the appointment of a commission composed of American citizens to go to Chentu and investigate the recent riots.

I

1/2346 I have now the honor to enclose a translation of the Yamen's reply to my communication.

The Yamên states that the riots did not commence at the American chapel and says "the trouble that the American missionaries experienced was nothing more than the result of the riotous feeling reaching them." No importance can be attached to this statement.

The Yamên further states that on the first of July an arrangement was made for the formation of a British commission, and I am asked to act according to my communication to the Yamên on that subject of July 1st last.

It is to be remarked here, in order to answer certain criticisms that have been made on my conduct, that the Chinese officials who were first named as composing a part of the British commission were not conclusively and definitely agreed on by the British Minister to whom I left the organization of that commission. It is to be further noted that the proposition to organize that commission was made about one month after the riots. At that time I did not know that any of the Chinese officials whose names had been mentioned by the British Minister had been in any wise implicated in the riots. Had I known such a fact I would not certainly have consented that any person so implicated should have sat on the commission of investigation.

Hearing afterwards that there were charges made against the Prefect of Chentu that he had favored the rioters, on the 25th day of July for this and other reasons I withdrew from the proposed commission.

The Yamen states that "the case may still be arranged by joint consultation at Chungking."

I have been credibly informed that the Chinese Government has wired to its Minister at Washington to endeavor to procure you to rescind your action touching the appointment of the new commission.

I await your directions on the subject.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr Denby

No 30 September 10, 1895.

Enclosure 1 in No. 2346

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby.

No. 30 September 10, 1895.

Upon the 6th of September the Prince and Ministers had the honor to receive a communication from the Minister of the United States wherein he stated that he had been ordered by his Government to organize immediately a commission consisting of Mr. Sheridan P. Read, United States Consul at Tientsin, a naval officer of the United States and an American missionary to proceed to Chengtu and there investigate the causes of the anti-foreign riots in the province of Szechuan. The Minister of the U. S. also stated that he was also directed to ask the Prince and Ministers to appoint an official of suitable rank to accompany this commission and sit as a member thereof, and to request that an escort be furnished for this commission, and the officials in Szechuan be directed to afford it every facility. An early answer was requested.

The Prince and Ministers would state that in regard to the missionary cases in

Szechuan the riots did not commence at the American chapels. The trouble that the American missionaries experienced was nothing more than the result of the riotous feeling reaching them.

On the 1st of July last the Prince and Ministers received a communication from the Minister of the United States wherein he stated that he endorsed the proposal made by H. B. M's Minister relating to the mode of procedure to be adopted in dealing with the Chengtu case; that H.

B.

B. M's Consul at Chungking, Mr Tratman, would take charge of American interests and choose an American missionary to serve as commissioner with his Chinese and British colleagues and asked that telegraphic orders be sent to the Chinese commissioners to hold themselves in readiness for the enquiry.

The Yamên at the time telegraphed informing the Szechuan authorities for their action in the premises. Special instructions have already been issued to the Taotai of the Chüan Tung

Circuit to confer with the British Consul in the matter of these missionary cases. They are about to be settled and the Minister of the United States is again asked to act according to his communication of the 1st of July and that the case may still be arranged by joint consultation at Chungking.

There is no need to specially depute several officers to proceed to Chengtu which will result in hardships of travel and thus act in harmony with the several treaties between

China and the United States.

As in duty bound the Prince and Ministers send this communication for the information of the Minister of the United States and will thank him to transmit the same to the Honorable Secretary of State.

R

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

No. 2347

Legation of the United States,

Peking, September 12, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 21 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Ackd! Oct 23.

DIPL[illegible] BUREAU.
OCT 22 1895

Subject:

The Kutien massacre.

Synopsis:

Yamên reports that Hsü Hsing-i has been ordered to sit on Kutien commission.

Two enclosures.

N° 2347

Legation of the United States,
Peking, September 12, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

1/347

I enclose a copy of a communication to the Tsungli Yamên wherein I represented that Mr Hsü Hsing-i, a Taotai by rank, had not gone to Kutien to sit on the investigating commission, although in their communication to me of the 23^{d} August they had stated that this gentleman had been directed to cooperate with the Consuls in dealing with the Kutien massacre.

2/2347 I have now the honor to enclose a translation of the communication of the Yamên in answer to the communication sent them by me.

The Yamên states that the gentleman named was appointed to cooperate with the Consuls at Kutien, and that no matter what may be the rank of deputies sent to investigate the case, they can only investigate the cases of criminals according to law, and that their decisions must be submitted to the Viceroy for his opinion thereon.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

1. Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamên
September 5, 1895.

2. The Tsungli Yamên to Mr Denby.
September 9, 1895.

Enclosure 1 in Despatch No 2347

Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamen.

September 5, 1895.

Your Highnesses and
Your Excellencies,

In your communication to me of the 23d ultimo you stated that you had received a telegram "from the Governor General of Fukien stating that an additional appointment had been made in the person of Mr Hsü Hsing-i, a Taotai by rank, who is to cooperate with the Consuls in dealing with the Kutien affair so that extra care may be taken in the matter".

I have the honor to inform you that I have been very much surprised to hear from the Consul that the Taotai Hsü was appointed to the foreign board at Foochow, and that no official of high rank has been appointed commissioner to Kutien.

I am informed that a high official whose decisions shall be final is absolutely necessary to Kutien. The Prefect who is now there does nothing without consulting the Viceroy thereby producing great delay and inconvenience.

It is just as important for China as for Great Britain or the United States that the investigating commission should be well organized and endowed with full powers, and I ask that you issue orders that a high official proceed to Kutien and that the judgements of the commissioners be final.

Enclosure 2 in Despatch 2347

The Tsungli Yamen to Mr Denby.

September 9, 1895.

Your Excellency,

We have had the honor to receive Your Excellency's note (of September 5th) wherein you stated that in the Yamên's communication of the 23d of August we informed you that we had received a telegram "from the Governor General of Fukien stating that an additional appointment had been made in the person of Mr Hsü Hsing-i, a Taotai by rank, who is to cooperate with the

Consuls in dealing with the Kutien affair"; that you had heard from the Consul by telegraph that the Taotai Hsü was only appointed to the Foreign Board at Foochow, and that he had not been appointed as commissioner to Kutien and that no official of high rank is there. The Prefect who is now there does nothing without consulting the Viceroy, thereby producing great delay and inconvenience. Your Excellency asked that we issue orders that a high official proceed to Kutien and that the judgements of the commissioner be final.

As Your Excellency some time ago addressed us a note asking that telegraphic instructions be sent to Foochow to appoint a high official to go to Kutien to cooperate with the Consuls in investigating the recent massacres, we wired Foochow, and received an answer to effect that Hsü Taotai had been appointed to go there to cooperate with them. It is not the case that he was merely detained at the Foreign board.

In regard to the appointment

of deputies to investigate this case, it matters not whether they be of the rank of Taotai or Chih Fu, they can only investigate the cases of the criminals according to law, and render a decision; such decisions, however, must still be submitted to the Viceroy for his opinion thereon.

Kutien is about 200 odd li from Foochow and copies of the proceedings and evidence in each case can from time to time be submitted to the Viceroy without causing much delay.

We beg that Your Excellency will again instruct the U. S. Consul at Foochow to cooperate with the deputies appointed from Foochow in a friendly manner. The decisions in the cases of the criminals must still be left to the Viceroy.

No. 2348. File

ASST. SECRETARY
NOV 8 1895

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 13th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Szechuan commission - confirms telegram.

Nº 2348.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 13th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm your cipher telegram of the 12th instant as follows:

"In the conference with the "Chinese minister today, he "disclaimed actual refusal of "Chengtu Chinese Commission "and escort and foreshadowed "a favorable result of renewed "representation by you. I intimated "the Government of the United States "would regard refusal as unfriendly "and might lead us to resort

"to independent measures for redress
"and protection. You will renew your
"representations. I do not favor Reid
"as missionary member. Might not
"trustworthy interpreter go instead?"

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

TELEGRAM RECEIVED. Cipher

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
SEP 18 1895
DEPT OF STATE

From Peking
September 14, 1895

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 18 1895

Olney
Washington
D.C.

Received ___ M.

Confirmed Sept 19 95

September fourteenth. Have no interpreter but Cheshire. Will send him Chengtu if directed.

Denby.

No. 2349.

3rd. ASST. SECRETARY.
NOV 8 1895

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 14th, 1895.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Chengtu Commission - Confirms Telegram

No. 2349.

Legation of the United States.
Peking. September 14th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm my telegram to you as follows:

"September 14th. Have no interpreter "but Cheshire. Will send him "Chentu if directed."

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

R

No. 2350

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, September 16, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 8 1895
DEPT OF STATE

✓ Ansd
Nov. 12.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
NOV 9 1895

Subject:
The Kutien massacre.

Synopsis:
Executions will not be taken as conclusive and final settlement. Delay in executions protested against.

Two enclosures.

No 2350

Legation of the United States,
Peking, September 16, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose herewith, a copy of a telegram received by me on the 14th instant from Mr Hixson, U. S. Consul at Foochow, now engaged in investigating the murders at Kutien, and a copy of a despatch thereupon sent by me to the Tsungli Yamên

1

2

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

1. Mc Kisson to Mr Denby, telegram. Sept. 13, 1895.

2. Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamen. No 29, Sept. 14, 1895.

Enclosure 1 in despatch No 2350.

Mr Hixson to Mr Denby

Cipher telegram.   Sept. 13, 1895.

Denby, Peking.

Hsü taotai here but viceroy has given him verbal instructions which practically supersede edict appointing him. Interviews with Hsü plainly indicate that the carrying out of any sentence will be delayed until assurances are given that all demands for Hwashan outrage will be satisfied by the executions. If viceroy allowed to dictate no satisfactory result can be secured. Hsü said "tell me how many "heads are wanted and I will "cut them off at once provided "the case is thereby finally settled."

We recommend peremptory instructions for summary punishments since same is vital to successful investigation. Mansfield wires Peking Viceroy's version of edict, officially given us by Hsü, and under which he claims to act. Suspect same has been altered since leaving Peking, before Hsü arrived.

Proclamations and instructions associating Christians with vegetarians, discriminating against Christians and allowing vegetarians to join home guard, issued by local officials, have caused trouble, as home guards have made many arrests. Have demanded that vegetarians shall not be allowed, at present, to join, and that proclamation be revoked and new one issued by Hsü not mentioning or referring to Christians. No compliance as yet and we have doubts.

(Sg'd) Hixson + Newell.

Enclosure 2 in despatch No 2350.

Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamên.

No 29 September 14, 1895.

Your Highnesses and
Your Excellencies,

I have the honor to inform you that I have received a telegram from my Consul at Kutien wherein he states that the Viceroy has given instructions to Hsü Taotai which practically supersede the edict appointing him.

It is stated that Hsü intimates that the carrying out of any sentence will be delayed until assurances are given that all demands for Hwashan outrage will be satisfied by the executions. If the Viceroy is allowed to dictate, no satisfactory result will be secured.

I request that you will issue peremptory instructions for summary punishment in all cases in which guilt is proven.

Proclamations and instructions associating Christians with Vegetarians, discriminating against Christians and allowing Vegetarians to join the home guard issued by local officials have caused trouble, as home guards have made many arrests. Vegetarians should not be allowed at present to join home guard, and a new proclamation should be issued not mentioning or referring to Christians.

Assurances will not be given that all demands for satisfaction for the Kutien outrages will be satisfied by the executions. Proper punishment must be awarded the guilty persons first. This is the principal thing and no demands will be made until after the executions. It is not right that the proceedings should be suspended.

No. 2351.

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 16th 1895.

INDEX BUREAU REC'D. NOV 8 1895 DEPT OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU NOV 9 1895

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

✓ Ansd. Nov. 11

Subject

The Szechuan commission

Synopsis

Yamên refuses to cooperate with American commission. Asks return to British commission. Mr. Denby refuses to advise such action.

Two enclosures.

No. 2351.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 16th 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

1/351 I have the honor to enclose a translation of a communication received by me from the Tsungli Yamên, relating to the proposed American commission to investigate the Szechuan riots; also 2/51 a copy of my communication in reply thereto.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Enclosures:
1. The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby, September 15. 1895.
2. Mr. Denby to the Tsungli Yamên, September 16. 1895.

Enclosure 1 in despatch No 2351

The Tsungli Yamen to Mr Denby.

No 31 Sept. 15, 1895.

Upon the 14th instant the Prince and Ministers had the honor to receive a communication from the Minister of the United States wherein he stated that ~~you~~ he had received telegraphic instructions from the Government of the United States on the subject of the American commission to investigate the Szechuan riots, and the Yamên was requested to appoint an official of high rank to proceed with the commissioners of the United States and sit with them etc. etc.

In reply the Prince and Ministers would state that in the communication of the Minister of the United States dated the 1st July last he endorsed the proposals of H. B. M's Minister as to the mode of procedure to be adopted in dealing with the case, that the British Minister had been requested to permit H. B. M's Consul at Chungking, Mr Tratman, to take charge of American interests and to choose an American missionary to act with his British colleague etc., and he requested that telegraphic orders be sent to Szechuan for the Chinese commissioners to hold themselves in readiness for the inquiry etc.

On the 28th June the Yamên wired the high authorities of Szechuan to appoint proper and suitable deputies to meet the British and American missionaries on their arrival at the Capital and to act with them in considering and taking action upon the matters at stake. This was communicated to the Minister of the United States on the 6th of July last.

In this matter the Minister of the United States had settled in consultation with H. B. M.'s Minister that Mr Consul Tratman at Chungking should represent American interests - a plan of action decidedly most excellent and capital.

The Yamên have sent repeatedly urgent and pressing telegrams to Szechuan to lose no time in bringing about a settlement of the cases. How could the Chinese officials there be wanting in courtesy and have the intention to not cooperate in this matter?

The Prince and Ministers request the Minister of the United States to be good enough to telegraph his

Government to still take action as formerly arranged and not send a commission to Szechuan. The Yamên will again urge the officials there to speedily bring the case to a close. Bearing in mind that the Minister of the United States has always acted justly in the administration of business he will not, first have one way of dealing and then another.

The Prince and Ministers beg that the Minister of the United States will favor them with a reply.

Enclosure 2 in despatch No. 2351

Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamên

No. 30 Sept. 16, 1895.

Upon the 15th instant the Minister of the United States had the honor to receive from the Prince and Ministers a communication in which they state that in the communication of the Minister of the United States of July 1st he endorsed the proposal of the British Minister as to the mode of procedure to be adopted in dealing with the Szechuan riots case, that the British Minister had been requested to permit H. B. M's Consul at Chungking to take charge of American interests and for an American missionary to be appointed on the commission, and for Chinese commissioners to be appointed etc.

The Prince and Ministers request

the Minister of the United States to telegraph to his Government to take such action as formerly arranged.

The communication under consideration is identical with the communication sent by the Prince and Ministers of the 10th instant.

It would seem to be unnecessary to send two identical communications in less than six days.

My Government has been minutely informed of the contents of my communication to you of the first of July of which a copy was forwarded to it.

It is not at all necessary to revert to the agreement made in cooperation with H. B. M's Minister. That agreement was never put in execution. No commission was ever organized.

With full knowledge of all the facts my Government has ordered me to organize a separate American commission to find out the facts touching the driving out from Szechuan of twenty four American men, women and children, and the burning of their homes, and the destruction of their property, and other wrongs and injuries.

Under the treaties and law of nations there cannot be the least doubt that my Government has the right to send a commission to Chentu to investigate the riots.

I will not advise it not to do so. I had an intimation from my Government that you would now consent to cooperate with the United States in the holding of this commission.

I ask an immediate answer in plain words as to whether you will cooperate or not.

In order that it may not be said that I have neglected any opportunity to urge upon you a proper conclusion - I will again personally call on you tomorrow at three o'clock, if you will receive me - unless I have before that time received a favorable answer to this communication.

Your attention is called in conclusion to the following article of the Chefoo Convention:

Section II.

Article 3: It is agreed that whenever a crime is committed affecting the person or property of a British subject, whether in the interior or at the open ports the British Minister shall be free to send officers to the spot to be present at the investigation.

R

Sep.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, September 16, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 8 1895
DEPT OF STATE

Bureau of Rolls & Library
NOV 11 1895
Department of State.

One copy to Treasury
Nov 11 95

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 8 1895

Subject:
Forwards Customs Gazette

Vol in Library -
A. H. C.

Sep.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, September 16, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to forward by this mail, under separate cover, duplicate copies of the Customs Gazette for the quarter April-June 1895.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

iP

TELEGRAM RECEIVED. Cipher

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
SEP 18 1895

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
SEP 18 1895

From Peking
September 18, 1895

Olney
Washington.

Received 18th 10.30 A.M.

Confirmed.
Sept 19.95

September eighteenth. Seven criminals executed at Kutien; some judgments reversed by Vice-Roy. New trials required. Consuls complain of delay.

Denby

P

TELEGRAM RECEIVED. Cipher

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
SEP 18 1895

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 18 1895

From Peking

September 18, 1895

Received 10:30 a M.

Olney
Washington
D.C.

Confirm this and defer answer of Secr State. A.A.A. Sept 18

Confirmed Sept 19 '95

Interview with the Minister for Foreign Affairs more satisfactory. Will have conclusive answer two days. Have directed members of Commission to prepare [illegible] go.

Denby

97

No 2352.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU

NOV 8 1895

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 18th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Ack. by Number and File.
aaa
NOV 8 1895

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject.

Kutien investigation—Confirms telegram

No 2352.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 18th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm my cipher telegram to you, of this date, as follows:

"Seven criminals executed at
"Kutien. Some judgements reversed
"by viceroy. New trials required.
"Consuls complain of delay".

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

TELEGRAM RECEIVED. Cipher

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
SEP 19 1895

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 19 1895

From Peking

September 19, 1895

Olney
Washington
D.C.

Received _______ M.

Conformed Sept 21, 95

September nineteenth. Question of clemency raised at Kutien. Think all accused should be tried and sentenced if guilty. Wholesale executions should not be insisted on; will you authorize Hixson to consent to commutations after judgments not before.

Denby.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED. Cipher

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
SEP 19 1895

DIP...
SEP 20 1895

From Peking
September 19th, 1895

Olney
Washington
D.C.

Received ______ M.

Informed Sept 21, 95

Can I draw on you to defray my necessary expenses as member of commission to Chengtu.

Cheshire.

Index

Form No. 2

CABLE MESSAGE.
THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.
INCORPORATED

All CABLE MESSAGES received for transmission must be written on the Message Blanks provided by this Company for that purpose under and subject to the conditions printed thereon, and on the back hereof, which conditions have been agreed to by the sender of the following message.

THOS. T. ECKERT, President and General Manager.

CHIEF CLERK
Received J.A.
SEP 19 1895
Department of State.

TWO AMERICAN CABLES FROM NEW YORK TO GREAT BRITAIN.
CONNECTS ALSO WITH FOUR ANGLO-AMERICAN AND ONE DIRECT U. S. ATLANTIC CABLES.
DIRECT CABLE COMMUNICATION WITH GERMANY AND FRANCE.
CABLE CONNECTION WITH CUBA, WEST INDIES, MEXICO AND CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA.
MESSAGES SENT TO, AND RECEIVED FROM, ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.

OFFICES IN AMERICA:
All Offices (21,000) of the Western Union Telegraph Company and its Connections.

OFFICES IN GREAT BRITAIN:
LONDON:
No. 21 Royal Exchange, E. C.
No. 109 Fenchurch Street, E. C.
LIVERPOOL: A5 Exchange Buildings.
GLASGOW: No. 29 Gordon Street.
BRISTOL: Backhall Chambers.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 20 1895

9 G

NUMBER	SENT BY	REC'D BY	No. OF WORDS.	FROM
ny 4	IX	JF	9	G Pekin

RECEIVED at Washington Sept. 19 1895
753a

Olney Washington

Repeat last three groups telegram eighteenth

Denby

No. 2353.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 19th 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Copy to Treasury, commending to consideration.
AAA
NOV 8 1895

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 8 1895

✓ To Treas
10 Nov.

Subject

Rate for drawing for disbursements on Government account.

Synopsis

Rule now for banker to fix rate at beginning of quarter. Rule works badly Recommend to take certificate at each drawing of drafts.

No. 2353.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 19th, 1895.

To the Honorable

Richard Olney,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I have received a letter from Mr. Holcomb, Auditor of the Treasury for the State Department, wherein he states that the circular of March 7th 1892, relating to the value of the Mexican dollar, was abrogated by one dated August 4th 1894. His letter was dated July 18th, 1895, and I answered it Sept. 10th 1895.

The Auditor states that it is now necessary for me to furnish his office with a certificate, verified by the banker, showing the actual cash value, or the par of exchange between the Mexican dollar and the American gold dollar at Peking on the first day of every quarter. Disbursements made by me in Mexican dollars are to be calculated and settled on the rate so ascertained.

This system applies only to disbursements, being for the contingent, telegram, and, presumably, repair accounts.

I beg to submit that the rule so adopted is not just. Under the old plan of keeping exchange accounts, the fluctuations in the value of silver as applied to disbursements caused very little difference in results.

I agree that a disbursing officer should not realize any profit on moneys disbursed. It seems to me that the only accurate way to prevent either loss or gain would be to require me to procure from the banker here a certificate each time that I disposed of a draft for American currency, stating the value of the Mexican dollar in that currency. I would then receive here exactly what I paid out here.

Under the new system if the rate, for instance, is fixed at fifty cents the first day of the quarter and rises to seventy five cents in the middle of the quarter, I lose twenty five *per cent*. If it falls I gain and the Government loses. For instance, I have to pay one thousand Mexicans for telegrams the first day of the quarter. I enquire at the bank how much American currency I shall draw for and am told five hundred dollars. A month later I make the same enquiry and am told that a thousand Mexicans will cost me seven hundred and fifty dollars. As this uncertainty can be easily remedied by taking a certificate from the banker each time that I draw a draft. I respectfully submit this plan for your consideration.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

No. 2354.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 19th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 9 1895

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Ackd. Nov. 11

Subject.

The Szechuan Commission.

Synopsis

Confirms telegram announcing a more favorable attitude of Yamên towards proposed commission.

No. 2354.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 19th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm my telegram to you of yesterday as follows:

"Interview with the Minister
"for Foreign Affairs more satisfactory
"Will have conclusive answer
"two days. Have directed
"members of Commission to prepare
"go."

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

R

No. 2355.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 19th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 8 1895

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

✓ Ackd Nov. 11

Subject

Szechuan Commission

Synopsis.

Confirms telegram directing to press independent commission.

No 2355.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 19th, 1895.

To the Honorable

Richard Olney.

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm your telegram to me as follows:

"September seventeenth. Proposition
"to arrange Szechuan investigation
"with British consul Chungking
"not entertained. Press independent
"commission. Omit missionary
"sending Cheshire instead."

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

No. 2356.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 19th 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

✓ Ackd. Nov. 11

Subject

The Szechuan Commission. Confirms Department's telegram of 18th instant

No 2356.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 19th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm your cipher telegram of the 18th instant as follows:

"Continue Szechuan efforts. Have "all ready to go at once. Designate "Cheshire Secretary with rank of "member, but no voice".

The last three groups of this telegram were unintelligible as originally received but were correctly transmitted in your repetition of this date.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

No. 2357-

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 9 1895

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 19th. 1895-

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 8 1895
DEPT OF STATE

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Ack. by Number and File
NOV 8 1895

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Kutien commission. - Confirms telegram this date

No. 2357.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 19th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm my telegram of this date as follows:

"Question of clemency raised at Kutien
"Think all accused should be
"tried and sentenced if guilty.
"Wholesale executions should not be
"insisted on. Will you authorize
"Hixson to consent to commutation
"after judgements not before?"

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

No 2358.

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 19th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 8 1895
DEPT OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 9 1895

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Acknd Nov. 11

Subject.

The Szechuan Commission.

Synopsis

Reports interview with Yamen in which the Chinese Ministers show a disposition to cooperate with the Commission.

No. 2358.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 19th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I had an interview yesterday with the members of the Tsungli Yamên on the subject of our sending to Chengtu an independent commission. The discussion was substantially similar to that which was had in the interview which I reported in my despatch No. 2343 of the 9th instant.

The Yamên insisted that the provincial judge had been appointed to confer with the British consul at Chungking and that this procedure was in accordance with my communication on the subject sent in July; that the Emperor could not be asked to make another appointment; that the matter was trivial; that the Americans had not suffered much; that the matters were in train of being settled; that the sitting of a commission now would create delay; that the route was long and difficult etc.

I answered that the scheme of holding a joint commission with the British consul had been long since abandoned; that the British minister had never seen his way clear to send Mr. Tratman to Chengtu, and that neither the British minister nor I had ever agreed that the commission should sit at Chungking; that the commission had never been organized and the Yamên had never brought the matter up until I demanded a separate commission; that by the reading of the Chefoo Convention, of which I had sent them a copy, we were authorized to send an investigating commission to the spot where the injuries had been committed; that we would not send a Commission to Chinkiang to investigate outrages done at Canton; that the commission would do China no harm, but good, because if China honestly assisted us to procure the facts, the world would take it that she would do her duty in punishing the guilty; that I did not insist that a high official should be sent from Peking but one might be sent from Hankow or some other city; that, if the matter were left to me, I would undoubtedly direct the commission to go whether China consented to be represented on it or not.

I then demanded whether China

would furnish the commission a suitable escort or whether we should be compelled to send an escort of American marines. They said that if the commission went they would be compelled to furnish an escort. I said I would then telegraph my government that China agreed to furnish an escort but did not agree to appoint a commissioner to sit with the American members. I wrote a telegram to that effect and read it to them. They said I must not send it. They wanted to consult with me. I said we had been consulting a long time. They said they could not give me a positive answer then but would send one as soon as possible.

There was a great deal of talk about the good relations with the United States and my own good feelings toward China, but I told them we were doing no harm to China and were simply insisting on a plain treaty right which they had accorded to the English and French.

The prospects of coöperation are at the present moment favorable, but, in any event, the commission should go to Chengtu, unless a complete and entirely satisfactory arrangement is made immediately.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

p 9

TELEGRAM RECEIVED. Cipher

COPIED FOREIGN RELATIONS

Secretary of State
SEP 20 1895

From Peking

September 20, 1895

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 20 1895

Olney
Washington.

Received 9:15 a. M.

Confirmed
Sept. 23/95

September twentieth. Opposition of China to Commission practically finished. Commission will go unless you countermand.

Denby.

No. 2359.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 8 1895

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 21st, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 8 1895
DEPT OF STATE

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
~~Ack'g Numbered~~ File.
a.a.a.
NOV 8 1895

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Kutien commission

Synopsis

Confirms Department's telegraphic instructions of nineteenth. Clemency to be considered only after conviction.

Nº 2359.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 21st, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State.
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram as follows:
"September nineteenth. American
"commissioners Kutien should
"discover and report officials really
"responsible for outrages. They have
"no judicial or diplomatic function.
"Punishment and execution of
"followers and tools admitted
"unimportant, but clemency after
"conviction could only be considered
"upon the proposal of the Chinese
"Government after commissioners
"report. Proposed authorization to

"Hixson would tend to narrow issue
"to one of informal administration
"thereby defeating broader purpose
"of this government."

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

No. 2360.

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 21st 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 8 1895
DEPT OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
NOV 9 1895

√ Ackd.
Nov. 11

Subject

The Szechuan Commission.

Synopsis

Commission will go unless countermanded
Encloses despatch from Yamên suggesting
change of route etc.

One enclosure.

No. 2360.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 21st, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State.
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm my telegram to you, of the 20th instant, as follows:

"Opposition of China to commission "practically finished. Commission "will go unless countermanded".

1/2360 In this connection I enclose a translation of a communication to me from the Tsungli Yamen wherein the suggestion is made that the route of the commission be by water and that on arriving at the province of Szechuan, the members thereof should consult or act with the judge of that province - in other words he is to be the Chinese commissioner.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Enclosure:

The Yamên to Mr. Denby, Sept 20. 1895.

Enclosure in No. 2360.

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby.

Note. Sept. 20. 1895.

Your Excellency:

Upon the 18th instant, upon your call at the Yamên, you stated that your government still intended to send a commission to Chengtu to investigate the missionary cases there.

As the Chinese Government is very desirous of having the matter brought to a termination at an early day. The provincial judge was, therefore, appointed to proceed to Chungking and there confer with the British consul, thus manifesting a desire to be careful.

The view of the Chinese Government in this matter has been telegraphed by the Yamên to Mr. Yang, Chinese Minister at Washington. He was requested to confer with the Honorable Secretary of State and to say that

China was anxious to take earnest action in the premises. No reply has, however, been as yet received from him.

Should the discussion of the question between Minister Yang and the Hon. Secretary of State result in the commission not being sent, trouble will be spared both countries. But if Your Excellency's government insist on sending the commission we beg to state that the route to be taken should be by water. This would be the most convenient and quickest in both going and returning. At the proper time, however, the Yamên will consult Your Excellency. On arrival of the commission in Szechuan they should consult or act with the judge of that province.

Cards of Minister
with compliments.

No. 2361.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 21st 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 8 1895
DEPT of STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 8 1895

✓ Ackd. nov. 11

Subject

Szechuan Commission - Confirms department's telegram of twentieth

---

No. 2361.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 21st, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram as follows:

"September 20th. Wire the following "to our consul at Tientsin: Carry "out at once previous instructions. "Insist upon sufficient escort "to overcome all real as well as "apprehended dangers. Overland "route more fatiguing but expedition, "which China undoubtedly does "not favor, is of the utmost importance "to us".

The contents of this telegram have

been communicated to the consul at Tientsin.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

No. 2362.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
NOV 9 1895

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

c]

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 21st, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 8 1895
DEPT. of STATE

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Ack. by Number and ~~File~~ approval of his reply
NOV 8 1895

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

✓ Ack'd.

Subject

The Kutien Commission.

Synopsis

Clemency not to be considered until after the report of the commission.

No. 2362.

Legation of the United States.

Peking. September 21st 1895.

To the Honorable

Richard Olney.

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to state that my telegram to you, of the nineteenth instant, wherein I stated that the "question of clemency was raised at Kutien", was called forth by divers telegrams which I had received from Messrs. Hixson and Newell, the American commissioners. The latest of these telegrams is of the eighteenth instant and reads as follows:

"Hsü [the Chinese Commissioner] "says Viceroy wants clemency, "Replied that end of trial and "not beginning was the time

"to talk of it - Told Hsü we
"should insist on every man
"who went to Hwashan being
"tried and sentenced, since, under
"Chinese laws, they have merited
"death - This construction has
"often been affirmed in open Court
"by prefect and magistrate. Now
"Viceroy wants another interpretation
"than of the thirteen cases
"unanimously condemned to
"death by court and referred to
"him - Hsü agrees with us but is
"powerless to act; must refer all
"matters to Viceroy - Informed Hsü
"that clemency comes from Consuls
"not from Viceroy - Cross-examination
"has furnished list of about one
"hundred who were actually
"engaged in massacre - Every
"precaution taken by consuls to
"prevent innocent suffering

"[Sig'd] Hixson & Newell".

In reply to this telegram I stated that my judgement was that trials should proceed until all the accused were tried; that the question of clemency should not be considered until judgement had been pronounced, and that I would "ask Department to "instruct as to your [Hixson's] recommending "commutations".

Your telegram of the nineteenth instant, in answer to mine of the same date, relating to the question of clemency wherein you say "clemency "after conviction could only be considered "upon the proposal of Chinese Government "after commissioners report", was substantially wired to Messrs Hixson and Newell.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

No. 2363.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 9 1895

Legation of the United States.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 8 1895
DEPT OF STATE

Peking, September 23rd, 1895.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
~~Acknowledged and~~ File.
aab
NOV 8 1895

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Acknowledges despatches

No. 2363.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 23rd, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches as follows:

No. 1115	of	August	tenth;
" 1116	"	"	thirteenth;
" 1117	"	"	fourteenth;
" 1118	"	"	"
" 1119	"	"	sixteenth:

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant.
Charles Denby

Ans'd by cable Sep. 24/95

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED. Cipher

Secretary of State.
SEP 24 1895

From Peking

September 24, 1895

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 24 1895

Olney
Washington.

Received 9 A. M.

Confirmed Sept 25/95

September twenty-fourth. China begs that Commission go by water. Mahometan rebellion in Kan-suh necessitates severely guarding Szechuan Shensi roads. Danger anticipated. Yamen promises all protection by river.

Denby.

[illegible] that U. S. insist the Commission
by land [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible]

COPIED, FOREIGN RELATIONS.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 9 1895

No. 2364.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 24th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 8 1895

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Ack. by Number and File.
aaa
NOV 9 1895

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State

Subject.

Clemency to Kutien criminals.

Synopsis

Hixson instructed not to consider clemency.

No. 2364.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 24th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney.
Secretary of State.
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I have received from Messers Hixson and Newell the following telegram, dated September 22nd;

"Denby. Peking.

"Cannot clearly "comprehend that part of your "wire refering to clemency and "hence" request you to give full "instructions. Have always steered "clear of judicial or diplomatic "functions by taking extreme "views of having no authority "beyond insisting on speedy but "proper trial. Hsü [the Chinese "Commissioner] having conceded "all demands hitherto made on "Kutien officials, the investigation "is proceeding without difficulty "except the dilatory measure of "referring to Viceroy evidence in "capital convictions".

"[Sg'd] Hixson Newell".

I have wired the following answer to this telegram:

"You have only to let Chinese "law take its course. If law "awards death or other penalty "let it be inflicted. Do not discuss "clemency. That is for your "government when you report "facts."

I understand that in this telegram I have substantially embodied your views.

Clemency in the Chinese view is weakness - If under Chinese law a certain number of murderers ought to be decapitated, a certain other number ought to be strangled and still others ought to be banished for life, I incline to the opinion that it is better for England and the United States to stand by and see these penalties inflicted. It is severe perhaps but the crime was terrible.

Should the Queen of England lead off with a recommendation of clemency it should be considered by the President, but it is not our business to take the initiative.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

No. 2365.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 24th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 9 1895

Ackd
Nov. 11

Subject

The Szechuan Commission

Synopsis

China begs that it go by river.

One enclosure.

No. 2365.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 24th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

1/2365 I have the honor to enclose a translation of a communication from the Tsungli Yamên wherein it is earnestly asked that the Szechuan Commission be authorized to travel by the river route.

I confirm my telegram on the subject as follows:

"Olney", Washington, Sept. 24th

"China begs that commission go "by water. Mahomedan rebellion in "Kansuh necessitates severely "guarding Szechuan and Shensi

"roads. Danger anticipated.
"Yamên proffers all protection
"by river".

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure:

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby

No 34 Sept. 23rd 1895.

Enclosure in No. 2365.

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby.

No. 34. September 23rd 1895.

Upon the 21st instant the Prince and Ministers had the honor to receive a communication from the Minister of the United States, stating that his government had ordered that the American commission to investigate the Szechuan riots should go overland from Tientsin, and he requested that the Yamên issue orders that a suitable escort be furnished to accompany and protect the commission while travelling across the country and that the commission would start in a few days.

The Yamên would observe that the journey from Peking to Szechuan is a very long one. At the present time the Mohammedans are causing trouble in Kansuh and severe precautions are being taken against unforeseen danger on the roads in Szechuan and Shensi. Under these circumstances it might be very inconvenient to give proper protection to the commission and if unexpected danger should happen it would have an effect on the friendly relations existing between the two countries.

As the United States Government has telegraphed insisting on sending the commission, it would be better for the journey to be made by water as mentioned in the Yamên's previous note. This would be quicker, and more convenient for China to give proper protection to the members thereof.

The Prince and Ministers beg that they may be furnished with the names and rank of the members of the commission and the time of their departure in order that instructions may be given to the local officials _en route_ to give them due protection as provided by treaty.

To His Excellency
Charles Denby
etc. etc. etc.

No. 2366.

File

ASST. SECRETARY
NOV [illegible] 1895

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 25th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

The Szechuan Commission.

Synopsis

Confirms Department's telegram ordering commission to go overland.

No. 2366.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 25th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney.
Secretary of State.
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram as follows:

"Denby, Peking, September twentyfourth
"Understand that water route is
"inadmissible and will not be
"considered - Commission should
"go at once by land with escort
"whose adequacy is satisfactory
"to you. If there is any further
"delay or hesitation in complying
"with this just demand report
"immediately."

I

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

No. 2367.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 9 1895

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Ack. by Number and File.
NOV 9 1895

Legation of the United States

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Peking, September 26th, 1895.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

British fleet ordered to China.

Synopsis

Object to exert pressure. Special designs not known.

No. 2367.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 26th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm my telegram to you of this date as follows:

"It is reported British fleet "has been ordered to China "to enforce pressure. Special "designs not known".

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

P

TELEGRAM RECEIVED. Cipher

Secretary of State.
SEP 26 1895

SEP 2[illegible] 1895

From Peking
September 26, 1895

Olney
Washington
D.C.

Received M.

Confirmed Sept. 27/95

September twenty sixth. It is reported British fleet has been ordered to China to enforce { ~~prestige~~(?). ~~pretensions~~(?). pressure. Special designs not known.

Denby.

44412 = pressing.

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS. Confirm

TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

Secretary of State.
SEP 27 1895

From Peking

Sept 27, 1895

Olney
Washington

Received ______ M.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 28 1895

Confirmed
Sept 30/95

Sept. 27: Six criminals executed Chentu; thirteen punished banished imprisonment Bamboing.

Denby.

Deciphered
Sept 27: 9.05 AM
(King)

No. 2368.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 27th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

DIPLOMATI
NOV 8 1895

Entered
Nov. 12

Subject

Criminals punished at Chengtu

Synopsis

Six executed. Thirteen punished in other ways.

One enclosure.

No. 2368.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 27th 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney.
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose a translation of a communication from the Tsungli Yamên relative to the punishment inflicted on the criminals who destroyed missionary property at Chengtu. 1/368

In this connection, I confirm my telegram to you as follows:

"Olney, Washington, September
"27th. Six criminals executed
Chengtu

"Chengtu - Thirteen punished,
" banishment, imprisonment
"bambooing".

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure:

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby
Sept 26th. 1895.

Enclosure in No 2368.

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby.

Note. Sept 26th 1895.

Your Excellency:

We have the honor to inform Your Excellency that we have received a telegram from the Governor General of Szechuan to the effect that six of the criminals who destroyed the missionary property have been decapitated and thirteen others have been sentenced — some to banishment, with military service for life, to a frontier, some to banishment for a term not exceeding three years some to wear the cangue and others to be flogged with the light and the heavy bamboo. The authorities of Szechuan have punished these criminals in a severe manner.

On receipt of the Governor General's memorial on the subject we will inform Your Excellency. In the meantime we send this communication for Your Excellency's information.

Cards of Minister with compliments

DIPLOM AL
NOV 9 1895

No 2369.

Legation of the United States.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 8 1895
DEPT OF STATE

Peking, September 27th, 1895.

Mr. Denby to the

Inclosure to Library April 6/96

Secretary of State.

Ackd. Nov. 11.

Subject

Forwards pamphlet. History of Szechuen Riots

No 2369.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 27th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to forward by this mail, under separate cover, a copy of a pamphlet entitled A History of the Szechuen Riots (May-June 1895).

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

TELEGRAM RECEIVED. Cipher

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
SEP 26 1895

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 28 1895

From Peking
September 28, 1895

Received ________ M.

Olney
Washington

Secretary of State.
SEP 1895

Confirmed Sept 21/95

Yamen have telegraphed authorities Chihli Shansi Shensi to appoint officer and escort Commission. (Barber desires to withdraw; others ready.) Edict will issue in a few days punishing officials and degrading vice-roy. Will telegraph it.

Denby.

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 9 1895

No 2370.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 28th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

✓ Ackd. Nov. 11

Subject

The Szechuan Commission. Escort provided.

Nº 2370.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 28th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm my telegram to you of this date as follows:

"Yamēn have telegraphed
"authorities Chihli, Shansi
"Shensi to appoint officer
"and escort commission.
"Barber desires to withdraw;
"others ready. Edict will
"issue in a few days

"punishing officials and
"degrading viceroy. Will
"telegraph it."

Each province is directed to appoint a military officer with a contingent of cavalry to escort the commission to the borders of Szechuan. An energetic military officer and twenty cavalrymen are to constitute the escort.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

TELEGRAM RECEIVED (in Cipher)

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
SEP 29 1895
10.45 A/M
DEPT OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 30 1895

From Peking

September 29, 1895.

Olney,
Washington,

Received 8.05 a/M.

I directed Barber to come immediately to Tientsin from Tokio. He will. He had asked Secretary of Navy to relieve him. Read, Cheshire are ready go. Shall they wait for Barber, or any other person?

Denby.

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS,

TELEGRAM RECEIVED. Cipher

Secretary of State.
SEP 1895

OCT 1 1895

From Peking

September 30, 1895

Received M.

Olney

Washington.

Confirmed oct. 1. 1895

September thirtieth. Imperial decree issued. Abstract: responsibility for Szechuan riots rests with officials, viceroy Liu careless, took no notice of the beginning of the riots; he is deprived of office, never to be again employed; other officials to be punished.

Denby.

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.
DIPLOMATIC BUREAU

NOV 9 1895

№ 2370

Legation of the United States,

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 9 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Peking, September 30, 1895.

Mr Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Ackd
Nov. 11

Subject:

Szechuan Commission.

Synopsis:

Yamên orders escort

Two enclosures

No. 2371.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, September 30, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

1/371 I have the honor to enclose a copy of a communication sent by me to the Yamên the 25th instant relating to the furnishing of an escort to the American Commission to
2/71 Szechuan; and a translation of the Yamên's reply thereto. The contents have already been communicated to you by telegraph

telegraph.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

1. Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamên No 36 September 25, 1895.
2. The Tsungli Yamên to Mr Denby, September 28, 1895.

Enclosure 1 in despatch No 2377

Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamen.

No 36 September 25, 1895.

Your Highnesses and
Your Excellencies,

I have the honor to inform you that the American Commission, which is organized for the purpose of investigating at Chentu the riots which recently took place in the Province of Szechuan is about to depart for its destination.

I renew my request that you will designate a Chinese official of high rank to sit with the Commission, and aid its investigations, and participate in its labors.

This official should not be one who was in office in Szechuan at the time of the riots. He should be independent, and capable without embarrassment of examining into the facts.

I

I am of the impression that no official of the Province would be suited for this position.
Such an official had better be selected from some other locality than the Province of Szechuan - for instance from Hankow.
I request you to issue suitable orders that the Commission shall be received with fitting respect and attention both en route and at the place of destination.
The members of the Commission represent the authority and dignity of the United States. They are high Commissioners clothed with important duties. The Commission is composed of Sheridan P. Read Esq., Consul of the United States at Tientsin; Francis M. Barber, Commander in the Navy of the United States and Naval Attaché to this Legation; and Fleming D. Cheshire Esq., Interpreter to this Legation.

I

I desire to know the name and rank of the official who has been designated by you to cooperate with these gentlemen and beg that you will instruct him in the sense above stated.

I have the honor to state further that I am just now in receipt of positive and imperative instructions that the Commission will proceed to Chentu overland. The arrival of Commander Barber at Tientsin is expected in a few days and the Commission will immediately depart on its mission.

I again request you to organize and prepare a suitable and ample escort.

I desire you to answer immediately whether you will comply with this request. I am directed to report immediately any delay or hesitation in complying with this just demand.

I

I trust you will find no
difficulty in complying with it.

Enclosure 2 in despatch No 2371

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr Denby.

September 28, 1895.

Your Excellency,

We have had the honor to receive Your Excellency's note with which you returned three passports, stating that Your Government wished the journey of the Commission to be made overland and not by water. Your Excellency asked that the necessary changes be made and the documents returned to you. The Yamên has issued three passports - one to each Commissioner - available for the journey to Szechuan, via Chihli, Shansi, and Shensi. They have been duly stamped by the Governor of Peking. Telegraphic instructions have been issued to the officials of all the provinces en route to provide an escort.

We send herewith three passports which we beg Your Excellency will be good enough to transmit to the gentlemen in whose favor they are issued.

1.

DI[illegible]ATIC BUREAU
NOV 9 1895

COPIED FOREIGN RELATIONS.
Ack by subject.
F.R. 1895. aa
NOV 9 1895

V Ackd Nov. 12.

No. 2372.

Legation of the United States.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Peking, September 30th, 1895.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Anti-foreign riots

Synopsis

Basie mission destroyed. Difficulties in other places. Yamēn promises energetic action.

One enclosure.

No 2372.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 30th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose a translation of a communication received from the Tsungli Yamên relating to some actual and other reported riots in various parts of China. 1/2372

As soon as information of the actual riots or the apprehension of riots reached me I notified the Yamên and demanded that immediate and energetic measures be taken to prevent and suppress disorder.

As to the Basil mission, which is composed of German Lutherans, no definite answer is given in this communication. Information was received at the German Legation that the riot mentioned had occurred and all the property was destroyed. Difficulties in other places, if the account given by the Yamên is true, were not serious. The Yamên promises energetic action.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure:

The Yamên to Mr. Denby No 35
Sept. 24th 1895.

Enclosure in No. 2372.

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby.

No. 35 September 24th 1895.

The Prince and Ministers had the honor on the 21st instant to receive a communication from the Minister of the United States wherein he states that the United States Consul at Ningpo had wired him that there is a great development of spirit antagonistic to foreigners spreading over the province of Chekiang and that proclamations are posted calling on the people to kill the native and foreign Christians and destroy their property. The Minister of the United States requested that immediate steps be taken to insure and preserve order and that the imperial edict be required to be posted in all public places.

On the same day the Minister of the United States sent another despatch to the Yamên stating that the Basil Mission at a place seventy miles west of Swatow had been looted and large plundering bands are operating in the Kochow district. The request was made that immediate steps be taken to protect foreigners in these localities.

The Yamên telegraphed the authorities of Chekiang and Canton to carefully investigate these cases and take satisfactory action in the premises.

The Governor of Chekiang has wired that he, some time ago, received a telegram from the United States Consul at Ningpo stating that proclamations were posted at Chin Hua Fu calling on the people to kill the native and foreign Christians and destroy their property. The prefect reported that Yang Pu is a place in the jurisdiction of the district of Yang Hsi. On the 14th September a missionary named Pai Pao-lo presented a complaint in regard to this matter, whereupon the prefect deputed an assistant district magistrate to go there and hold an investigation. That officer reported that there were Christians in Yang Pu but no chapels. There were chapels in the Lung Yu district city and on account of the people and Christians bearing a grudge towards each other false accusations were made and hence the mistaken reports the missionaries had heard. The said magistrate and others went in person to Yang Pu, summoned the people and Christians before them and instructed them. They gave guarantee for their behavior and the trouble thus ended.

The magistrate of Lung Yu was informed that he should satisfactorily give protection to all alike. The action taken was made known to the missionary Pai Pao-lo.

As to the imperial decree it is not true that it has not been posted. The people and Christians at Chin Hua Tsu are now living peacefully together.

The Yamên has also received a telegraphic reply from the viceroy at Canton stating that in regard to plundering bands operating in the Kochou district it appears that in the spring there was trouble at a place called Wuchuan. Soldiers were sent there to arrest the rioters but they had dispersed. It is now said that outlaws are secretly returning for the purpose of plundering and in consequence military officers have been sent there to attack and destroy them. Protection will surely be given. The local authorities have not reported any trouble or disturbance at the missionary chapels. No reports have been received of any looting of the missionary establishments at Wei Lin. The Commander in Chief and Brigade General have been deputed with soldiers to surround and destroy the thieves.

As in duty bound the Prince and Ministers send this communication for the information of the Minister of the United States.

To His Excellency
Col. Denby
U. S. Minister

5

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.
Ack. by subject. This decree is a tardy step in the right direction.
NOV. 15 1895
alg

№ 2373.

Legation of the United States,

Peking, September 3, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Secretary of State.
NOV 15 1895

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
NOV 15 1895

Mr Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Ansd. Nov. 19.

Subject:

The Szechuan riots.

Synopsis:

Imperial decree issued. Credit belongs to Department. Telegram confirmed.

One enclosure.

No. 2373.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, September 30, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In my telegram of the 28th instant I stated that an Imperial decree would issue in a few days ordering the punishment of the delinquent officials in Szechuan.

1/373 I have now the honor to enclose a translation of that decree which appeared yesterday in the Peking Gazette, and of which a copy was sent last night by the Tsungli Yamên to this Legation.

I beg to say most emphatically that this result is chiefly due to the action of the Department in ordering a commission to go to Chentu to investigate the riots. It is known to you that from the moment of the happening of the riots, the British Minister and I, have day after day, in writing and orally, demanded, as an indespensable condition the punishment of the guilty officials. The alleged inaction for which I have been blamed did not exist. This charge was based on the proposition that I at one time agreed to act in common with an English commission. If that commission had been properly organized, and had proceeded at the start to do its work, it would not have been objectionable. It was approved by the Acting Secretary of State. About twenty five days after it was proposed, I withdrew from it for several reasons, one of which was that it did not appear that it would ever proceed to Chengtu. The Department on being informed of the delay in organizing this commission ordered an American commission to be organized. China fought this commission for some days, but was finally forced to consent to consent

to its going overland to Chentu. China also fought with unparallelled obstinacy the proposition to punish the Viceroy Liu - partly on account of his influence with the Dowager Empress, and partly because there was no precedent for this action. The entering wedge in overcoming this obstinacy was the action of the Department in ordering the going of an American commission. After China had accepted this proposition as inevitable, the British Minister stepped in with an ultimatum that the officials should be punished. A fleet was ordered to these waters as a menace.

The Minister of France then intervened to explain to China that to avoid trouble she must punish the officials.

I have not the least objection that these two gentlemen may reap all the honor that is possible out of their action, but I hope I may say, speaking by this record, that to the Department of State is due, beyond all doubt, the credit of having broken through Chinese obstinacy, and of having diplomatically, and without menace, brought about a result which will constitute an era in the treatment of foreigners in China.

In connection with this subject I confirm my telegram to you as follows:

"Olney, Washington.
"September thirtieth.
"Imperial decree issued.
"Abstract: Responsibility for
"Szechuan riots rests with
"officials. Viceroy Liu
"careless; took no notice
"of beginning of the riots;
"he is deprived of office
"never be again employed;
"other officials to be
"punished.
"Denby".

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your

Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

1. Imperial Decree. Sept. 29, 1895.

Enclosure 1 in despatch No 2373

Imperial Decree. Issued
[11th Day 8th Moon] Sept. 29, 1895.

Since the establishment of foreign missions in China imperial decrees have been repeatedly issued commanding the Viceroys and governors to order the local officials to exert special efforts for their protection, in order that the people and the churches might dwell in harmony. In the 4th moon of this year disorderly characters stirred up trouble at the capital of Szechuan and destroyed a chapel at Tung Chiao Ch'ang. Thereafter other cases involving missions occurred at other places in the province. The responsibility for all these lies on the local officials whose inability in times of peace to influence and control the people permitted the germs of trouble to foment and who, after outbreaks had occurred, failed to act promptly in repressing them.

Liu Ping-chang, the viceroy of said province, was careless in his government. His fault is very grave. The censor Wu Kuang-kuei reports in a memorial that Liu Ping-chang took absolutely no notice of the beginning of the outbreaks in his provincial capital nor did he send soldiers to repress them. Unemployed vagrants assembled in constantly increasing numbers until repeated cases involving missionaries had occurred throughout the province. The said viceroy heedlessly followed his own devices regardless of his great responsibilities.

Let him be at once deprived of office never to be employed again to proclaim a warning to others.

As to the Taotais, prefects and others who have failed in the proper discharge of their duties, let Lu Ch'üan-lin* vigorously investigate their conduct and report thereon that they may be dealt with according to their respective deserts.

Respect this.

* Lu Chuan-lin, present viceroy of Szechuan.

[Translated by
Chas. Denby Jr.
Secretary of Legation.]

File

3rd. ASST. SECRETARY.
NOV 9 1895

No. 2374.

Legation of the United States.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Peking, September 30th, 1895.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Szechuan Commission. Confirms telegrams.

No. 2374.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 30th, 1895.

To the Honorable

Richard Olney,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I append on the overleaf a copy of your telegram to me of the 28th instant, and a copy of my telegram to you of yesterday, relating to the Szechuan Commission.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Copies of Telegrams

Denby, Peking, September 28th
Do not approve change in commission. Telegraph when it starts which should be immediately.

Olney.

Olney, Washington, Sept. 29th
I directed Barber to come immediately to Tientsin from Tokio. He wired he had asked Secretary of the Navy to relieve him. Read [and] Cheshire are ready to go. Shall they wait for Barber or any other person?

Denby.

DIPLOMATIC BUR.
NOV 9 1895

No. 2375.

Legation of the United States,

Peking, September 30, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 9 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr Denby to the

Secretary of State.

✓ Ackd. Nov. 11

Subject:

The Chentu Commission.

Synopsis:

Transmits telegraphic correspondence between Commander Barber and Mr Denby.

No 2375.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, September 30, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit to you copies of the telegraphic correspondence between Commander Barber and myself as to the Chentu Commission. He wired from Tokyo.

September 11th I received from this gentleman the following: "Am I going to Chentu".

I

I answered the same day:

"You are ordered to go, but
"China refuses to consent
"to commission and I wait
"orders from the Department."

September 19th I wired:

"Barber, Tokyo. Commission
"goes to Chentu. Report
"from Shanghai."

The same day I wired:

"My orders are to have
"commission ready to go at
"once".

The 21st September I wired:

"Commission goes
"overland. Reach Tientsin
"as soon as possible."

The same day I received the following:

"Leave for Shanghai
"thirtieth."

The 25th September I wired as follows:

"Wired you 21st Commission
"goes overland. Come
"immediately to Tientsin.
"Answer."

The 26th September I received the following:

"Did not think reply
"necessary to telegram of 21st.
"Have cabled Navy
"Department to be taken
"off Commission."

Messrs Read and Cheshire, the two other members of the Commission, are waiting your action as to sending Commander

Barber or some other person in his place. It will take Commander Barber twelve days to reach Tientsin. I wired you yesterday to ascertain whether the Commission should go without him. There has been no delay on the part of this Legation or Messrs Read and Cheshire.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Ack by subject.
F.R. 1895. a.a.e.
NOV 9 1895

No. 2376.

Legation of the United States,

Peking, September 30, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 8 1895
DEPT OF STATE

Mr Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Ackd. Nov. 12

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 9 1895

Subject:

Condition of Affairs at Chungking.

Synopsis:

Number of foreigners driven out by rioters. French rebuilding. Unrest prevailing.

No. 2376.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, September 30, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to state that from information received here it appears that the total number of foreigners who were driven from their homes during the recent riots in Szechuan was eighty seven. Of these fifty three were British subjects, thirty were Americans, and four Swedish or Norwegian ladies.

Of this total eighteen British and four Swedes living at Chiating, Paoning and Kwang Yüan have now returned to their homes. The feeling of hostility to foreigners is not abating.

Chungking is kept quiet by pressure. Whether such pressure will be maintained is questionable. The recent Imperial decree degrading and punishing the former Viceroy will have some effect no doubt.

The proposal to take from the likin revenue the funds necessary to inaugurate and keep up a "train band" system in Chungking has been vetoed by the Viceroy on the ground that other cities support train bands without such assistance.

The Taotai at Chungking is being pressed to settle British and American claims, and as an incentive to haste, it is said that all the French cases both at the capital and elsewhere have been completely settled.

There are still rumors at Chentu that children are being stolen for the use of foreigners. The French missionaries have begun to build one of their establishments at Chentu and their other sites are fenced in. The Protestant sites are being used for theatrical and other shows or as places for depositing rubbish.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

№ 2377

Legation of the United States,

Peking, October 1st, 1895.

Secretary of State.
NOV 9 1895

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 9 1895

Mr Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Ansd. Nov. 11.

Subject:

Chentu Commission.

Synopsis:

Encloses copy of instructions to commissioners.

One enclosure.

No 2377.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 1st, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that Mr Cheshire left Peking to-day to proceed to Chentu with the American Commission.

1/2377 I enclose herewith a copy of my instructions to the Commission.

I suppose that you will give such further instructions as may seem proper to you.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

1. Copy of instructions to the Commission.

Enclosure 1 in despatch No 2377

Legation of the United States,
Peking, September 30, 1895.

Messrs Read and Cheshire,
Members of the Szechuan
Investigating Commission.

Gentlemen:

Your Commission was organized by the direct orders of the Honorable Secretary of State for the purpose of securing a report of facts to serve as a basis for demands to be hereafter made by the Government of the United States. The Secretary of State may give you specific instructions. Should none reach you you are directed, until further instructed, to act on the views herein set forth.

You are to proceed to Chentu and enquire into the cause and origin of the anti-foreign riots which occurred there and elsewhere in the province of Szechuan, the latter part of last May. You are to find the facts and to determine from them whether the provincial authorities took adequate or any measures to prevent disorders or to suppress the riots after they broke out. You are to report by name and rank the officials who failed to do their duty in the protection of foreigners, and if you find that any official did exert himself to protect foreigners you will so state.

You are to examine witnesses both foreign and native and secure evidence in all legal modes. You will hear proof of damages done to Americans or their property, should any American desire to present such proof, and you will assess damages.

In connection with your report you may submit, if you see proper to do so, any general views on the subject of anti-foreign riots in China.

You are not clothed with either judicial or diplomatic functions. Your particular and more important duty will be to investigate the conduct of the officials and make a report on which the Government of the United

States can predicate any demand it may choose to make.

You will report to this Legation from time to time by mail or telegraph, as may be necessary, facts of importance. Should you require any assistance at my hands it will be cheerfully furnished.

The Department has designated Mr Cheshire as Secretary of the Commission, with the rank of member but without voice.

Your action, as I am at present advised, will be independent, and without further instructions you will not amalgamate with any other commission. What courtesies you may extend to or accept from the representatives of other nations, should there be any other commission organized, is left to your own judgement.

It is expected that China will designate an official of suitable rank to cooperate with you. I will notify you of the appointment of the official selected and should you discover any valid objection to his serving I will expect you to notify me thereof.

The Department of State has indicated that perhaps the presence of the ex-Viceroy Liu may prove objectionable at Chentu. If in your opinion there be any foundation for apprehension on this score you will notify me.

The Chinese Government has consented to furnish you with a suitable escort and has issued orders to the various local officials en route to ensure your protection. Passports, also, have been furnished.

Commander Barber was designated as a member of the Commission. As he has applied to be relieved from this duty I have left a blank place in these instructions which may be filled by the name of his successor.

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) Charles Denby.

File

3rd. ASST. SECRETARY
NOV 9 1895

No. 2378.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 1st, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

The Szechuan Commission. Confirms Department's telegram.

No 2378.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 1st, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of yesterday as follows:

"Denby, Peking, Barber relieved "by Secretary of the Navy on "account of ill-health and "Merrell substituted who will "report at once so that "commission can start immediately"

In this connection I have to

say that Mr. Cheshire left for Tientsin this morning and will arrive as soon as Mr. Merrell can get there. I have wired Mr. Read to start immediately.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

№ 2379

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
NOV 9 1895

COPIED.
FOREIGN RELATIONS

Legation of the United States,

Peking, October 1st, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 8 1895
DEPT OF STATE

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
NOV 9 1895

Ack by subject with approval of Mr. Denby's action as being in the line of the Department's instructions. Responsibility of high places must not be ignored -

aaa

F.R. 1895 -

Mr Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Ansd. nov. 11

Subject:

The Kucheng Commission.

Synopsis:

Encloses telegraphic correspondence.

Three enclosures.

No. 2379.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 1st, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose a copy of a telegram received from Messrs Hixson and Newell; also a copy of my reply thereto; also a copy of my communication to the Tsungli Yamên relating to the complaints made by the commissioners that the proceedings are impeded and asking that stringent orders be issued to the Viceroy ~~ordering him~~ to facilitate in every way the labors of the commission.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosures:

1. Messrs Hixson & Newell to Mr Denby
Telegram Sept. 29. 1895.

2. Mr Denby to Mr Hixson
Telegram Sept. 30. 1895.

3. Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamen
No 37 Oct. 1st 1895.

Enclosure 1 in despatch No 2379

Messrs Hixon + Newell to Mr Denby.

Cipher telegram. Sept. 29th, 1895.

Denby, Peking.

Waiting for Chinese law to be enforced is rapidly rendering our presence here a farce. Viceroy's construction of the law, the deceptive acts of officials here together with gross apathy displayed in making arrests and in conducting trials cause alarm among peaceful people and thereby with the connivance of officials encouraging vegetarians openly to threaten native Christians. Failure to obtain full and speedy justice and complete investigation will prove lastingly injurious to United States interests in this province and foment a most virulent persecution of native Christians. The good effect of the commission's presence here is being rapidly supplanted by a menacing attitude towards Christians and foreigners. Indications point to the massacre as being an offshoot of a contemplated rebellion. Between two and three hundred were engaged in massacre and of these forty five only have been arrested. Existing elements of an uprising are daily becoming more prominent by acts and connivance of officials, and their evident anti-foreign feeling induces vegetarians to openly boast of future hostile intentions. Former open obstruction has been followed by evasion concealment and deception for the purpose of throttling the committee and securing from punishment all vandals except those actually inflicting death blows. Our helpless situation can be relieved only by peremptory action coercing viceroy to cease at once the scheming policy he is now carrying on through his subordinates here. Unless this state of affairs change it would be better to give up the unequal struggle and return to Foochow until guarantees are given for the uninterrupted prosecution of investigation.

Hixson Newell.

Enclosure 2 in despatch No 2379

Mr Denby to Mr Hixson.

Telegram. Sept. 30, 1895.

Hixson, Suichow.

Have made urgent representations to the Tsungli Yamên to issue orders to the Viceroy to cease to impede your efforts and to order his subordinates to assist you in every way. Viceroy of Szechuan has been degraded and made forever incapable of holding office. Subordinates will be punished. Quote the example.

Denby.

Enclosure 3 in despatch No 2379

Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamên

No. 37. Oct. 1st, 1895.

Your Highnesses and
Your Excellencies,

I have the honor to inform you that I have received a communication from the American Commissioners at Kucheng making grave complaints of the conduct of affairs at that place. I call your attention to them with the hope that you will take immediate steps to remedy the evils complained of, so that the Commission now sitting may speedily and satisfactorily close its labors.

It is said that gross apathy is displayed in making arrests and in conducting trials thereby causing alarm among peaceful people and encouraging vegetarians to threaten native Christians. Such conduct will foment the persecution of native Christians. There exists now a menacing attitude towards Christians and foreigners. Indications point to the massacre as being an offshoot of a contemplated rebellion and in that view you are greatly interested in assisting in every way the Commission. There were two or three hundred people engaged in the massacre and only forty five have been arrested. It is charged that the officials pander to anti-foreign feeling which conduct induces the vegetarians to openly boast of future hostile intentions. Open obstruction has been followed by evasion, concealment and deception used to thwart the efforts of the commission and screen from punishment all criminals except those who actually inflicted death blows.

I request that you will order the Viceroy to cease any effort to impede the progress of the commission, to warn his subordinates that they must do their whole duty and to push on as rapidly as possible the pending examination.

No. 2380

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

Legation of the United States,

Peking, October 1st, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
NOV 9 1895

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Ack by subject, reciting Mr. Denby's action, which approve. A.A.
NOV 9 1895
F.R. 1895.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Ack'd Nov. 11

To Rev. Judson Smith Nov. 23.

Subject:

Apprehended riots in Shansi.

Synopsis:

Yamên asked to take stringent protective measures.

One enclosure.

No. 2380.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 1st, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that reports have reached me that there is danger of anti-foreign riots in Shansi.

I have accordingly addressed to the Tsungli Yamên a communication asking that stringent measures be taken to prevent disorder - of which a copy is enclosed. 1/380

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure:

1. Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamên October 1st, 1895.

Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamên

October 1st, 1895.

Your Highnesses and
Your Excellencies,

I have the honor to inform you that in and around Taiku, in the Province of Shansi great hostility against foreigners is being developped and riots are to be apprehended.

By means of the sale of pictures and by organized misrepresentation the people are being falsely instructed that all the foreign powers were engaged in war against China, and they are incited to acts of violence for the sake of revenge. Unless you take immediate and stringent repressive and precautionary measures other terrible riots may ensue. I urgently call upon you to issue orders to the local authorities to post up proclamations denying the truth of the publications which are now circulated in Shansi, denouncing violence and ensuring protection to the foreigners.

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS. NOV 8 1895

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU

No. 2381.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 2nd, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Ackd. Nov. 11

Subject

The Szechuan Commission

Synopsis

The Yamên reports the designation of officers to escort the commission.

One enclosure.

No. 2381.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 2nd, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, a translation of a note from the Tsungli Yamên in which they inform me what officers have been detailed to escort the Szechuan Commission and designate the places at which the Commission is to pass from one province to another. 1/2381

I have the honor to be,
Sir

Sir,

Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Enclosure:

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby

Oct 1. 1895.

Enclosure in No. 2381.

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby.

Note. October 1st 1895.

Sir:

We received some days ago a note from you in which you stated that the Szechuan Investigating Commission despatched by your government would proceed by land *via* Chihli, Shansi and Shensi. On the 28th September we accordingly sent you three passports for delivery to the members of the commission and we sent telegraphic orders to the authorities of the said provinces to each detail an officer and a squad of cavalry to escort them on their journey.

The Viceroy of Chihli now telegraphs that he has detailed Major Chʻi Mei-cheng, with twenty soldiers, to escort the commission as far as Ping Ting Chou, in Shansi, where they will be committed to the authorities of that province. We have received also a telegram from the Governor of Shansi announcing the detail of First Captain Li Chun-hua with twenty soldiers to take the party under his escort at Ping Ting Chou. The Governor of Shensi also telegraphs that he has detailed Second Captain Fan Pen-wan with twenty soldiers to take charge of the commission at Ting Kuan.

We are awaiting a telegram from Szechuan announcing the locality at which the commission is to enter that province and the name of the officer who will there receive them, upon receipt whereof we will again write you. In the meantime we send this note for your information.

Cards enclosed.

No. 2382.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 19 1895

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 3d, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 19 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Copy to Navy Dept: Admiral Carpenter's commendation of Mr. Donnelly's course is duly appreciated.
NOV 19 1895
So ack.

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

To Navy Nov. 20.
Ack'd Nov. 20.

Subject:

Admiral Carpenter's thanks to Mr Donnelly.

Synopsis:

Letter conveying thanks and encomium enclosed.

One enclosure.

№ 2382

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 3d, 1895.

To the Honourable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honour to enclose a 1/382 copy of a despatch from Rear Admiral Carpenter wherein he pays a high compliment to Mr A.R. Donnelly, the Consular Agent of the United States at Chefoo.

Such encomiums are as gratifying to me as they are to the recipient thereof.

I have the honour to be,
Sir

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure:

1. Admiral Carpenter to Mr Denby,

No. $\frac{228}{Misc}$ Sept. 29, 1895.

Enclosure 1 in despatch No 2387

Admiral Carpenter to Mr Denby.

Nº 228/Misc   Sept. 29, 1895.

Sir:

1. Before leaving this vicinity I desire to record my appreciation of the services and efficiency of Mr A. R. Donnelly, the United States Consular Agent at Chefoo.

2. During the past winter, under conditions that were at times trying and perplexing, I found Mr Donnelly energetic, resourceful, and possessed of a keen appreciation of the duties of the office that he occupied.

3. To him I am indebted for able assistance on several occasions. His uniform courtesy and willingness, at all times, to assist in plans that were formed for the aid of American citizens, and the protection of our interests, are worthy of commendation.

I

I am, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
(Sg'd) C. C. Carpenter
Rear Admiral, U.S.N.,
Commanding U.S. Naval Force on
Asiatic Station.

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS
c

DIP EAU
NOV 19 1895

No 2383

Legation of the United States,

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 19 1895
DEPT of STATE

Peking, October 3, 1895.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Ack by subject.
AAA
NOV 19 1895

Mr Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Ack'd Nov. 20.

Subject:

The Ex-Viceroy Liu.

Synopsis:

Was ordered back to Chentu. Was not appointed Commissioner to Kucheng.

No. 2383.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 3, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In your despatch No. 1123 of August 24th last you express the opinion that the demand made by the British Minister and myself that the Ex-Viceroy Liu Ping Chang should be ordered to Peking might have proved, if it had been acquiesced in, detrimental to the purpose in view - that is to say his punishment. As he was not ordered to Peking it is scarcely necessary to discuss what the effect might have been. Our main purpose was accomplished, and that was to prevent his reaching his home in the Province of Anhui until he had been judged and sentenced. He was ordered back to Chentu and he has been degraded and rendered forever incapable of holding any office for the expressed and published offence of having failed to protect foreigners.

It is scarcely necessary at this late day to say that the news-paper report that the Ex-Viceroy was appointed "the Chief Commissioner of China to investigate the later massacre and looting at Kucheng" is without the shadow of foundation in fact.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

No 2384. file

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 19 1895

Legation of the United States,

Peking, October 3, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 19 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject:

Acknowledgment of despatches.

No. 2384.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 3, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Department's despatches as follows:

No. 1120 of August 22d, 1895,
" 1121 " " 23d "
" 1122 " " 24th "
" 1123 " " " "
" 1124 " " 26th "
" 1125 " " " "
" 1126 " " " "

No 1127 of August 27th, 1895

" 1128 " " " "

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

316

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS. Lc

Ack for WO

No. 2385.

Legation of the United States,

Peking, October 4th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU REC'D. NOV 19 1895 DEPT. OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU NOV 20 1895

Mr Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Ackd. Nov. 21.

To Rev. Judson Smith, Nov. 23.

Subject:

Apprehended riots in Shansi.

Synopsis:

Local officials ordered to investigate and take precautions against disturbances.

One enclosure.

No. 2385.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 4th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that upon representations being made to me by the American missionaries residing at Taiku in the Province of Shansi, that trouble was apprehended I addressed the Yamên on the subject and demanded that repressive and precautionary measures be immediately taken.

I enclose the Yamên's reply from

which it appears that the local authorities have been ordered " to examine into the matter and take precautions against disturbances and to make earnest efforts to protect foreigners."

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure:

1. The Tsungli Yamên to Mr Denby.
Oct. 3d, 1895.

Enclosure 1 in despatch No 2385.

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr Denby.

Oct. 3, 1895.

Sir:

We have had the honor to receive Your communication wherein you state that at T'ai Ku and vicinity, in the province of Shansi, cartoons of the war are being offered for sale and it is being asserted that all the foreign powers were engaged in hostilities with China. You state that reports of this character tend to excite the populace and that if measures are not taken to hold them in check trouble will arise. You request us to instruct the local officials of that vicinity to issue proclamations informing the people that the cartoons and their narratives are mere fabrications in order that the people and the missions may remain in harmony and that the foreigners residing there may be protected.

Upon receipt of your despatch we at once perceived that reports of this character might very easily cause trouble, and it therefore became our duty to telegraph to the provincial authorities to examine into the matter and take precautions against disturbances and to make earnest efforts to protect foreigners and thus prevent the occurrence of mishaps. We also send this note for Your Excellency's information.

Cards + compliments.

No 2386

Legation of the United States,

Peking, October 5, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 19 1895
DEPT OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 19 1895

Mr Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Ans'd. Nov. 30.

Subject:

Request for the "Nation" and "Harper's Weekly."

See instn of May 20, 96

No. 2386

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 5th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have to request that you order to be sent to this Legation for the balance of the current fiscal year the "Nation" and "Harper's Weekly."

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

No 2387.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 19 1895

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 5th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
NOV 19 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Usual course. To Mr Eckels
~~Ack.~~
AAA
NOV 19 1895

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Enc. to Mr. Eckels
Nov. 20/95

Subject:

The Banking System of China.

Synopsis:

Encloses answers to interrogatories of the Comptroller of the Currency.

No 2387.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 5th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In compliance with your despatch No 1121 of August 23d last enclosing thirteen interrogatories relating to the Banking system of China, I have the honor to enclose under separate cover answers thereto addressed to Mr Eckels, Comptroller of the Currency Treasury Department.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Dip

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED partly IN CIPHER.

From Peking

October 6 1895

Rec'd 9^{20} a.m.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
OCT 7 1895

Olney,

Washington

Confirmed Oct 8/95

October sixth. Commission started to-day.

Denby

No 2388.

Ack. File
WR

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 6th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 19 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 20 1895

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:

Fan Tsun land case.

Synopsis:

Yamen directs satisfactory measures to be taken.

Two enclosures.

No 2388.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 6th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

1/388 I have the honor to enclose a copy of my despatch to the Tsungli Yamên of the 24th ultimo, wherein I demanded that the American Norwegian mission at Fan Tsun in the province of Hupeh should be secured the possession of certain land which had been bought.

2/388 I enclose the answer of the Yamên wherein they state that they have "directed the Viceroy of Hukuang to "take satisfactory measures in the "matter."

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosures:

1. Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamên No 35. September 24, 1895.

2. The Tsungli Yamen to Mr Denby October 5, 1895.

Enclosure 1 in despatch No 2388

Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamên

No 35.   Sept. 24th, 1895.

Your Highnesses and
Your Excellencies:

I have the honor to inform you that for a long time there has been trouble at Fan Tsun in the province of Hupeh over a piece of land which was purchased by the Norwegian American Mission for the use of the mission.

I understand that valuable improvements have been made by the missionaries.

Under the recently amended Berthemy Convention missionaries have the undoubted right to purchase land in the interior.

I request you to issue orders to the local officials not to interfere any longer in the purchase of land; to withdraw all opposition and even to facilitate the purchase

and

occupation of land by the American missionaries.

Enclosure 2 in despatch No 2388.

The Tsungli Yamen to Mr Denby.

Oct. 5, 1895.

Your Excellency:

We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 24th ultimo, in which you state that the Swedish American mission at Fan Cheng in Hupeh bought a piece of ground in 1893 and that legal processes there from arising have continued a long time without settlement. You state that this mission has accumulated much material for the purpose of building on the premises. You point out that according to the French Berthemy Convention, as amended and agreed to by this Yamên in this year, missionaries have the right to purchase land in the interior at will and you request us to order the local officials at the said locality to offer no obstruction to the acquisition of the mission of the piece of land recently bought by them and that facilities be afforded them for the purchase of additional land in future whenever they may wish to buy.

We have to say in reply that we have received no report from the authorities as to the purchase of land at Fan Cheng in Hupeh by the Swedish American Mission. Being now, however, in receipt of Your Excellency's despatch we have directed the Viceroy of Hu Kuang to take satisfactory measures in the matter.

We make this reply as in duty bound for Your Excellency's information.

NOV 19 1895

No 2389.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 7th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
NOV 19 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
Departure of Commission. Confirms telegram.

No. 2339.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 7th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney.
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm my telegram to you of yesterday's date as follows:

"Commission started today".

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
Charles Denby

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS Lc

No 2390.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 7th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 19 1895
DEPT OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 20 1895

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Ans'd.
Nov. 21

Subject:

The Edict punishing the Viceroy of Szechuan.

Synopsis:

Not brought about by French pressure. Always demanded by British and American ministers. Publication of causes gist of decree.

No. 2390.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 7th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to call your attention to a statement made in Reuter's telegram of the third instant as follows:

"Chinese Legation (London)
"states that degradation of
"Szechuan Viceroy was
"decided before British
"Ultimatum. French official
"note ascribes decision to
pacific

"pacific pressure of France."
The truth of history compels me to state that in my opinion the decision cited can in no wise be ascribed to the pressure of France. From the beginning the British Minister and I have in concert, though acting separately, demanded the punishment of the Viceroy and his subordinates, together with the publication in the Peking Gazette of an Imperial edict awarding such punishment for the distinct and specifically stated reason that these officials had not done their duty in preventing or suppressing the anti-foreign riots.

The gist of the whole matter was in the publication as stated, because otherwise the Chinese would forever deny that the Viceroy was punished for failure of duty to foreigners.

I never understood that my French colleague advocated or demanded such publication. My despatches and telegrams will show that I always did. See my despatch No 2335 of September 5th last enclosing a paper to the Yamên of August 28th. On the proposition of publishing the causes of the punishment of the officials I never wavered a moment. It must be said that the British Minister and I fought the battle with the Yamên alone and unassisted in word or deed by any of our colleagues. I am not at all interested in adding to the prestige of England, nor in detracting from the honor or glory of France — but the truth should be told. What the French Minister may have said or done I do not know, but I do know what I did and what my British colleague did.

The 27th September he saw the Yamên and verbally stated his ultimatum. The 28th September he sent his ultimatum in writing. He demanded that an answer be sent to him the 29th September, and if the answer were favorable, the decree should be issued on or before the tenth of October.

The decree appeared the 29th September in the Peking Gazette.

If the French Minister advised the issuing of the edict before the 27th September I have no knowledge of the fact. What he may have done afterwards is not very material.

I claim that the action of the Department in demanding that a commission go overland to Chengtu was the opening wedge which destroyed Chinese obstinacy. I do this freely because the credit is not in the least due to me. Before the commission was ordered there was no talk of an ultimatum, nor of armed interference.

The Imperial Edict - of which a 1/390 printed copy is herewith enclosed - is a great humiliation to China and was so intended to be.

It is natural that she should seek to deny that its issuance was forced on her by England. Its effect will be far reaching, and it has been received with great enthusiasm by foreigners in China.

In my opinion it will never be reversed and it will stand as a precedent for punishment and as a warning to the official class.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

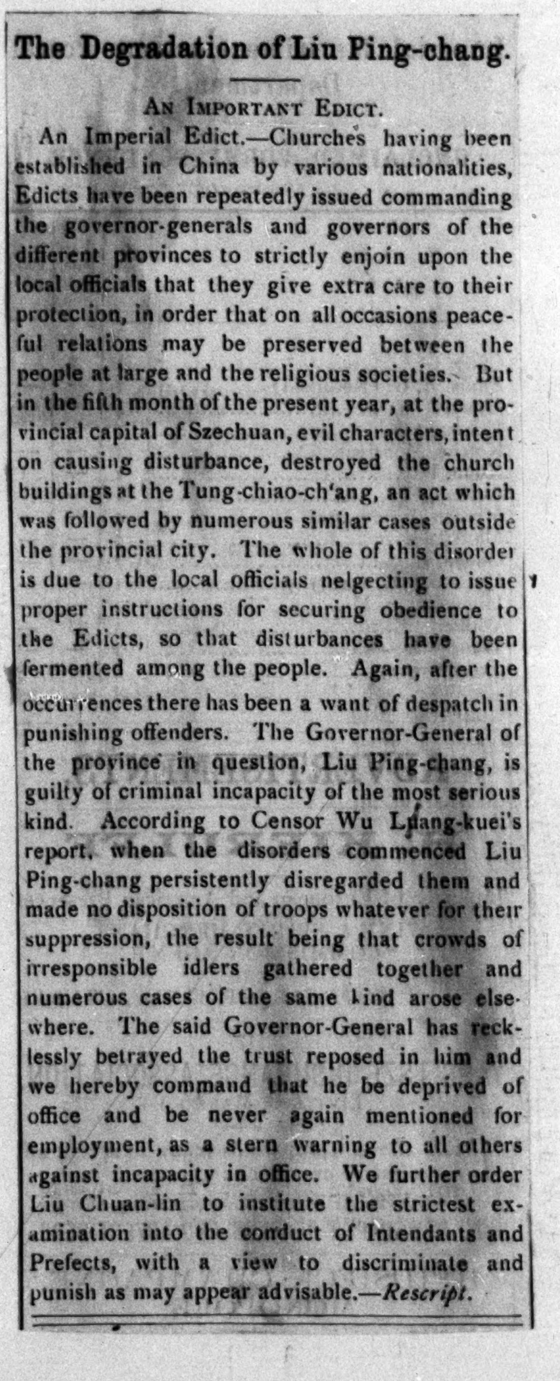
Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure:

1. Imperial Edict.

Enclosure in despatch No 2390



The Degradation of Liu Ping-chang.

An Important Edict.

An Imperial Edict.—Churches having been established in China by various nationalities, Edicts have been repeatedly issued commanding the governor-generals and governors of the different provinces to strictly enjoin upon the local officials that they give extra care to their protection, in order that on all occasions peaceful relations may be preserved between the people at large and the religious societies. But in the fifth month of the present year, at the provincial capital of Szechuan, evil characters, intent on causing disturbance, destroyed the church buildings at the Tung-chiao-ch'ang, an act which was followed by numerous similar cases outside the provincial city. The whole of this disorder is due to the local officials nelgecting to issue proper instructions for securing obedience to the Edicts, so that disturbances have been fermented among the people. Again, after the occurrences there has been a want of despatch in punishing offenders. The Governor-General of the province in question, Liu Ping-chang, is guilty of criminal incapacity of the most serious kind. According to Censor Wu Liang-kuei's report, when the disorders commenced Liu Ping-chang persistently disregarded them and made no disposition of troops whatever for their suppression, the result being that crowds of irresponsible idlers gathered together and numerous cases of the same kind arose elsewhere. The said Governor-General has recklessly betrayed the trust reposed in him and we hereby command that he be deprived of office and be never again mentioned for employment, as a stern warning to all others against incapacity in office. We further order Liu Chuan-lin to institute the strictest examination into the conduct of Intendants and Prefects, with a view to discriminate and punish as may appear advisable.—*Rescript.*

96

No 2391.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 18 1895

Legation of the United States,

Peking, October 8, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 19 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Ack by subject & file.
aaa
NOV 19 1895

Mr Denby to the

Secretary of State.

✓ Ack'd.
Nov. 20.

Subject:

Dr D. Z. Sheffield's case.

Synopsis:

Minister urges Yamên to order speedy disposition thereof.

One enclosure.

No 2391

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 8th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Referring to the case of Dr D. Z. Sheffield I have the honor to enclose a copy of my communication to the Tsungli Yamên of the 8th instant. 1/391

In this connection I refer to my despatches Nos 2281, 2331 and 2344.

Dr Sheffield has been for some weeks in the country near Peking.

It is advisable that his assailants should be tried and punished befor his return to Tungcho, and it is desirable that the trial should take place without his being personally present - if that be possible.

It will be seen that I have again urged on the Yamên an early trial and that I have sought to have it proceed without the presence of Dr Sheffield.

It is proper to state that the chief assailant was at first reported to be insane. On examining into the facts I concluded that he had an accomplice and no insane person ever entered into a combination to commit crime.

So say all the books, and Guiteau's case is the only exception to the rule.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure:

Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamen
Note October 8th, 1895.

Enclosure 1 in despatch No 2391

Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamen.

Note October 8th, 1895.

Your Highnesses and
Your Excellencies:

I had the honor the sixth day of last month to receive from you a communication relating to the case of the two criminals who made the assault on Doctor Sheffield.

You therein stated that "it was decided to wait and see if Dr Sheffield recovered or not, and then to take up the case, hold a further examination and decide the punishment to be inflicted on the prisoners. On account of Dr Sheffield not having recovered he could not be summoned to Court and a further examination take place."

I have to inform you that Dr Sheffield is slowly recovering from his dreadful wounds. He never will entirely recover, but it is hoped that his life will be spared. I do not understand that it is necessary that Dr Sheffield should personally appear before the magistrate. He has already given his deposition, and all the facts are notorious. Considering the peaceful character of the injured person, and the utter want of provocation to his assailants this crime is entirely atrocious and should receive the gravest punishment that Chinese law awards.

Your Highnesses and Your Excellencies say: "Though the weapons used by Tsao-ta and Tsao-erh were a hatchet and file and not the same as used for committing murder, still Dr Sheffield received serious wounds and many of them."

I beg to say that I do not agree

with you that a hatchet and file are not weapons adapted for the committal of murder. They are eminently dangerous and the hatchet especially was used for centuries as a weapon in war. These men should be punished and quickly.

My Government cannot understand why in so plain a case there should be any delay and I am directed to request you most urgently to bring the matter to a close.

You say: "Considering that the limited period by law as to the crime being punished by death having expired it is right that the prisoners be reexamined and a decision rendered."

Why then still delay?

If the trial cannot under Chinese practice proceed without the presence of Dr Sheffield, fix a time for the trial and let me know the date and I will see that he is present - but in his present state of health such an ordeal should be spared him if possible.

He is at present in the country, but in about two weeks he can be present at the trial.

Ch. F. L.
Sep

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JUL 13 1896

File

Legation of the United States.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 19 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Peking, October 8th, 1895.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Applications
Examined & filed

Subject

Return of passports.

One enclosure.

Dep.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 8th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, a return of the passports issued from this Legation during the quarter ending September 30th last.

1

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Enclosure:
Return of passports.

No 2392

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 19 1895

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 9th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 19 1895
DEPT OF STATE

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Copy to Navy Dept to complete the record.
NOV 19 1895 AAA

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

To Navy, Nov. 20.

Subject:

Requests to Admiral for ships.

Synopsis:

Ship asked for in Yangtze from 16th at Foochow August 6 & 9.

No 2392

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 9th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to state that I have not thought it necessary to inform you of the times and occasions when I have requested Admiral Carpenter to send ships to various ports in China.

In view, however, of recent criticisms on me I beg to submit the following copies of telegrams sent by me to the Admiral at the dates stated:

June 17th, 1895.

"Riots imminent on Yangtze.
"Though there are several foreign
"ships in river it would
"certainly have a good effect
"if you would send ship to
"Hankow."

August 6th, 1895.

"Great riot at Kutien. Ten
"English killed. Our
"missionaries took refuge
"in Foochow. Hope you will
"send ship there."

August 9th, 1895.

"Urgently renew request for
"ship at Foochow."

I believe that Admiral Carpenter complied with these requests as soon as he could.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

No 2393

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 19 1895

Legation of the United States,

Peking, October 9th 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 19 1895
DEPT OF STATE

Mr Denby to the

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Ack. with #2395 in which the Brit. minister's denial of the language attributed to him appears.
NOV 19 1895
A.A.A.

Secretary of State.

Ack'd
Nov. 20.

Subject:

The Kucheng Commission.

Synopsis:

H. B. M's views rather different from my instructions in the matter of clemency. Yamên asks certain directions to Consul. British Commission will probably be withdrawn.

No 2393

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 9th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

1/393 I have the honor to enclose a translation of a communication from the Tsungli Yamên relating to affairs at Kucheng.

It is a response to my communication of which a copy was transmitted to you in my despatch No 2379 of the first instant.

I am somewhat embarrassed as to what answer to return.

In despatch No 1116 of August 13th last the honorable Acting Secretary confirms his telegram of August 12th.

In that telegram I am directed to "consult with Minister of Great "Britain and cooperate so far as "conducive to security and welfare of "United States citizens xx. If not "already done make demands covering "same points as British demand xx."

It would seem, however, from the enclosure that considerable divergence exists between the policy directed to be followed in your telegram of the nineteenth September and that pursued by the British Minister.

You therein say: "clemency after "conviction could only be considered "upon the proposal of the Chinese

"Government after commissioner's
"report."

The Yamen reports that the British Minister said: "that seven of the head criminals therein had been executed and in addition thereto six others had been condemned to death, but that with reference to these some leniency could be shown; that although judgment had been pronounced on them their sentences could be mitigated and it was not necessary to execute large numbers."

Messrs Hixson and Newell have been informed by me that Chinese law must take its course and the question of clemency can be considered only after they have made their report - but the British Minister has distinctly, consented, if he is correctly reported, to the exercise of clemency by the Viceroy.

From conversations that I have recently had with the British Minister I should not be surprised if he shortly withdrew his commission. If he does I will ask of our instructions what our Commission should do.

In reply to the Yamen's paper I have sent a communication of which a copy is enclosed. 2/2398

As it would have served no good purpose to explain to the Yamên that any difference existed between H. B. M's Minister and myself - I have been as general as possible in my answer to their communication.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosures:

1. The Tsungli Yamên to Mr Denby

No 38 Oct. 6th, 1895

2. Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamên

No 38 Oct. 9th, 1895.

Enclosure 1 in despatch no 2393

[Translated by
Chas. Denby Jr.
Secretary of Legation.]

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr Denby.

No 38 Oct. 6th, 1895.

Your Excellency:

We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 1st instant wherein you state that you have received a telegram from the American Consul at Foochow, now at Kucheng, reporting that the local officials display apathy in making arrests and in conducting trials, causing alarm among peaceful people. You state also that there are indications that the massacre at Hua Shan was an offshoot of a contemplated rebellion and that we should be interested, therefore, in aiding the commission in bringing the perpetrators to justice; that there were two or three hundred people engaged in the massacre and that only forty five have been arrested; that the local officials seem to shelter them from arrest, which induces the outlaws to openly boast of future hostile intentions. You request us to order that the case be dealt with in good faith in the hope that it may be speedily closed.

Some time ago His Excellency Sir N. R. O'Conor, the British Minister, came to this Yamên and discussed the Kucheng case. He said that seven of the head criminals therein had been executed and in addition thereto six others had been condemned to death, but that with reference to these some leniency could be shown; that although judgment had been pronounced on them their sentences could be mitigated and that it was not necessary to execute large numbers. He requested us to telegraph the Viceroy of Fukien on the subject.

This we at once did, and we are now in receipt of a telegram from him setting forth the following report from Hsü Taotai.

" The depositions of Liu Hsiang
" Hsiung and other criminals,
" six in all, were yesterday
" submitted to the consuls but
" they were unwilling to endorse
" them nor would they come to
" assist at the examination.
" They said that of the two
" hundred rioters at Hua
" Shan only a few over forty
" had been arrested and they
" submitted a memorandum,
" setting forth the names of
" fifty people, and they
" insisted that orders be
" issued to make stringent
" search for them throughout
" the neighborhood. According
" to the testimony of the

" outlaws heretofore examined
" not more than one hundred
" men went to Hua Shan
" and thirty or forty only
" were within and outside
" of the foreign houses. The
" Consuls were present when
" these people were examined
" and they did not dissent
" to their testimony. None of
" the important culprits have
" slipped through the net.
" As to the large number of
" names on the Consuls'
" memorandum the fact is that
" on the occasion of the
" outbreak the outlaws attacked
" and at once dispersed.
" What means could the
" consuls have of knowing the
" names of the participants?
" It is evident that the native
" Christians are acting as
" informers on those against
" whom they bear enmity.

"If in this manner extraneous
"matters are to be dragged
"into this case not only must
"the settlement be deferred
"but the incitement of a
"rebellion of another kind is
"to be apprehended."

In considering this matter, this Yamên enquires why the Chinese Government should wish to show leniency towards malfactors of this class for whom the law itself has no indulgence? All the outlaws who were at the scene of the crime must be seized and none allowed to escape. Upon mere suspicion, however, and semblance of guilt reckless and undiscriminating action cannot be taken. There should neither be leniency nor injustice, in order that full warning may be given to the vicious and the stupid and that the peace of the upright may be assured. If no discrimination is made between the true and the false and orders are abruptly given to repair to the villages and make relentless search it is really to be feared that there will be no avoiding causing alarm, as Your Excellency says, among the peaceful people there.

We make this communication for Your Excellency's information and we request you to instruct your Consul that he must cordially coöperate with Hsü Taotai and give no heed to the partisan statements of the native Christians who point out for arrest members of other sects in order to gratify their hate. In this way it is to be hoped that the case may be speedily closed.

To His Excellency
Charles Denby
etc.-etc.-etc.

Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamen.

No 38. October 9th, 1895.

Your Highnesses and
Your Excellencies:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 6th instant relating to the pending investigation at Kucheng.

After reciting the contents of my communication of the 1st instant and stating the substance of an interview with H. B. M's Minister, and quoting a report from Hsü Taotai, you ask me to instruct my Consul to cooperate with Hsü Taotai etc. Until I receive a report from the American commissioners I will be unable to instruct them on the subject mentioned. I have no doubt that as far as is consistent with their duty they will cooperate with Hsü Taotai.

No 2394.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 19 1895

Legation of the United States,

Peking, October 9th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 19 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Ack. by Number and File.
aab
NOV 19 1895

Mr Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject:

Separate Minister appointed to France.

Synopsis:

Decree appointing him set out. Extraordinary promotion. Advantage to France.

No. 2394.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 9th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that on the 29th July a memorial was presented to the Emperor requesting the appointment of a Minister to France.
This was done at the instance of the Government of France.
On the 6th instant an Imperial Edict was issued as follows:

"Let Chingchang a brevet

"official of the 4th grade and
"Senior Secretary of the Board
"of Works be promoted to the
"second grade and resigning
"his office let him be appointed
"Minister to France holding
"the official position of Expectant
"Director of a Court of the
"fifth order. Respect this."

The new Minister was formerly attached to the Legation to France and Russia and he speaks French. His promotion from brevet official of the fourth grade to the position of Minister is noteworthy as showing that the Government of China is no longer bound by precedent and is determined to have qualified men in high positions abroad.

It is noteworthy also that France has secured a representative of China to be accredited to her alone - a circumstance which tends to increase her influence over the diplomacy of China.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

No 2395.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 19 1895

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 10th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 19 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Ack & file. See #2393.
aaa
NOV 19 1895

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Ack'd
Nov. 20.

Subject:

The Kucheng Commission.

Synopsis:

H. B. M's Minister furnishes statement of what he said correcting report made in despatch No 2393.

One enclosure.

No 2395.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 10th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In my despatch No 2393 of the 8th instant I enclosed a communication from the Tsung-li Yamên in which were embodied certain statements alleged to have been made by H. B. M's Minister relating to clemency to the Kucheng rioters.

Sir Nicholas O'Conor denies that he used the language attributed to him and has furnished me with a statement of what he did say, of which a copy is enclosed. 1/2395

I make the correction in justice to my colleague.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure:

Sir N. R. O'Conor's statement.

Enclosure in No 2395

Yamên's despatch of 6th October.

The Yamên's statement in page 2 is a travesty of what I said. I did not pronounce an opinion as to the relative guilt of some or others of the 13 arrested and condemned, but I told the Yamên in general terms that Her Majesty's Government did not desire a wholesale butchery or the execution of any mere tools, but what they did want was the capital punishment of the prominent leaders and most guilty and that the sentence of death be passed on all the principals in accordance with Chinese law - the mitigation of their punishment to be granted later on.

Enclosure in No 2398

Yamen's despatch of 6th October.

1/2398

The Yamen's statement in page 2 is a travesty of what I said. I did not pronounce an opinion as to the relative guilt of some or others of the 13 arrested and condemned, but I told the Yamen in general terms that Her Majesty's Government did not desire a wholesale butchery or the execution of any mere tools, but what they did want was the capital punishment of the prominent leaders and most guilty and that the sentence of death be passed on all the principals in accordance with Chinese law - the mitigation of their punishment to be granted later &c.

No 2396

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 19 1895

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 10th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 19 1895
DEPT OF STATE

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Ack + approve.
AAA
NOV 19 1895

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Ackd.
Nov. 20.

Subject:

Register of Americans in China.

Synopsis:

To comply with Article V of the Convention of 1894 such lists have been required of Consuls.

One enclosure.

No 2396.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 10th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Richard Olney,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that in order to comply with Article V of the Convention between the United States and the Empire of China, which was proclaimed December 8, 1894, I have addressed to the Consuls a circular requiring them to furnish to this Legation the information therein provided for, relating to the names and residence of Americans residing in China.

A copy of the circular is enclosed. It has been some years since such a list was prepared and at this time it is especially desirable to have such information.

1/2396

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure:

Circular to the U. S. Consuls.

Oct. 9th, 1895.

Enclosure in No 2396

Circular

Legation of the United State
Peking, October 9th, 1895.

To the Consuls of
the United States
in China:

Gentlemen:

Your attention is called to the fifth article of the Convention between the United States of America and the Empire of China which was proclaimed Dec. 8th 1894-

By this article the United States agree to furnish China a register of all Americans residing in China except laborers and except also diplomatic and other officers of the United States residing or travelling in China upon official business, together with their body and household servants-

Ratifications of this Convention were exchanged in the City of Washington on the 7th of December 1894-

In order to enable the Government of the United States to comply with this agreement you are directed to furnish this Legation with the statistics called for at your earliest convenience-

Copies of the said Convention were furnished you by my direction- It will also be found at page 96 of the Chronicle and Directory for 1895-

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant

[Sig'd] Charles Denby

EN

END